



Kent on Sunday

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EAST KENT EDITION

Issue no 549

Zoos step up security as police warn of poachers hunting rhino

By Marijke Cox
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EVIL poachers are plotting to slaughter the critically endangered black rhino herd at Kent's wildlife parks to get their hands on valuable rhino horns.

Conservation charity the Aspinall Foundation, which runs Port Lympne near Hythe, and Howletts near Canterbury, have been warned by police to step up security following a tip-off that poachers have specifically targeted the parks as part of a nationwide plot.

It is believed to be the first time hunters have plotted raids in the UK.

Poachers in Africa hunt rhinos relentlessly in pursuit of their horns, which can fetch up to £50,000 per kilogramme, making them as valuable as gold.

The hunters kill the animals and hack the horns off the bodies.

Port Lympne and Howletts are home

to the world's most important collection of black rhinos outside Africa, with the herd – believed to consist of more than 20 rhino across both parks – free to roam hundreds of acres of countryside.

Manager of the two parks, Bob O'Connor, told KoS they had been contacted by Kent Police on Wednesday about the threat to the species.

He said: "They said they had intelligence that someone was going to harm the rhinos.

"It seems like it was a call via their Kent Crimestoppers phone line.

"It's very worrying. It's as if someone had made a threat to your children, it's that serious.

"What we see in Africa with poaching is very scary. In Europe we have seen thefts from museums and we have to ask the question, is it going to its next level?"

Last year, thieves crept into a diorama

Continued on page 2



Picture: ASPINALL FOUNDATION

UNDER THREAT: The horn of the rhino is as valuable as gold on the black market

TRANSPORT

Flights begin at Manston

AFTER several false dawns, Manston will be hoping its latest venture finally takes off as KLM launches flights to Amsterdam on Tuesday.

The twice daily trips link to the hub airport which will provide direct access to 130 destinations. But will it prove a business success? **PAGE 12**

WELFARE

Fresh call to ban big race

THE Grand National takes place next weekend, with an animal charity renewing calls for it to be banned, despite improvements to the Aintree course.

Animal Aid says the race has claimed the lives of too many horses in recent years and is cruel. **PAGE 15**

NATURE

Wild boar are back again...

HEAR a rustle in the woods? It could be one of an estimated 1,000 wild boar which have returned to our countryside since the native species was hunted to extinction in the 17th century.

So how and why have they returned? See our special report inside. **PAGE 18**

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News

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INSIDE

- News.....2-35
- Kent Remembered.....37
- Comment/Feedback 38-39

INSIDE



- Interview.....41
- Food and Drink.....43

■ LEISURE

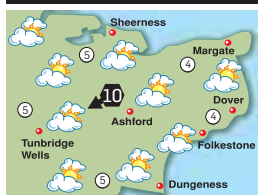
Attractions, events, stage, exhibitions, theatre, arts,42, 44-46

- Homes & Gardens... 47-53

- Business.....55-57
- Driving.....59-63

- Jobs & Notices.... 64-69
- Sport.....70-71

Weather



TODAY: Some sun. The chance of a light shower: Light north-east winds. Max temp 3-6C (37-43F). **TONIGHT:** Clear spells. Patchy frost. Min temp -4 to -1C (25-30F).

TODAY'S HIGH TIME (Metres)			
Dover	02.02	6.8	14.26
Margate	03.09	4.9	15.25
St Mary's	08.03	5.6	20.25

WEEK AHEAD

Monday	Max 6C	Min -2C
Tuesday	Max 6C	Min 0C
Wednesday	Max 7C	Min 0C
Thursday	Max 6C	Min 1C
Friday	Max 6C	Min 0C
Saturday	Max 4C	Min 0C

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Volunteers from public will be recruited to guard the rhino

Continued from front page

at the Powell-Cotton Museum at Quex Park in Birchington and ripped off rhino horns from one of the taxidermy displays.

Little did they know the supposed valuable horns were in fact fake. Staff had replaced them following a break in at the Natural History Museum in Tring, where thieves had stolen what they thought were two real horns worth £240,000, which were actually resin models.

The real horns are kept securely outside of Kent.

But this latest threat is more worrying, with critically endangered species at risk.

Chairman of the Aspinall Foundation, Damian Aspinall, said: "It is tragic



TARGET: Public can help protect rhinos

and beyond belief that, as we do everything possible to restore these magnificent animals safely to the wild, the human traders who seek to profit from their slaughter should bring their vile activities to the UK.

"In the light of what Kent Police have

told us is a genuine threat, we will do everything to protect our herds."

The charity is now calling on volunteers to help guard the important species.

Mr Aspinall said: "Our volunteers will be recruited responsibly after careful vetting.

"Their presence will enable us to be vigilant and alert at every point at which the rhino could possibly come under threat.

"We would also ask that visitors to Howletts and Port Lympne report any suspicious behaviour to staff and volunteers."

Park manager Mr O'Connor said anyone who wanted to get involved in helping guard the animals should make contact.

"They will be interviewed and vetted and if they are taken on, they will be

partnered with a keeper and will then patrol the parks in a vehicle and act as a deterrent," he said.

He stressed that the volunteers would not be at risk from the poachers.

Mr O'Connor was unable to say whether the poachers were from abroad.

The Aspinall Foundation breeds black rhino as part of its Back to the Wild programme where animals are returned to their natural habitats around the globe, to help restock the wild with species man has driven to the brink of extinction.

The scheme has seen the successful births of 33 black rhino in captivity.

To get involved contact the Aspinall Foundation at info@aspinallfoundation.org or calling 0844 842 4647 for Howletts and 0844 842 4647 for Port Lympne.

TRANSPORT

Disbelief after Southeastern 'rewarded for failure' with train contract extension

By Marijke Cox

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IT HAS been exposed as one of the worst performing train operators in the country.

Year-on-year passengers are hit with soaring fare increases, with some commuters forced to pay more than £5,000 for a season ticket.

During snow, passengers consistently report delays as services grind to a halt, with little communication as to what's going on. In one bad bout of snow two years ago, commuters were stranded overnight on a broken down train.

So bad has the situation been in recent years that some of the county's MPs have called for the firm to be stripped of its franchise.

But, in what will be viewed as an absurd move by many, Southeastern has instead had its franchise extended for another four years – the longest extension of all the country's rail operators.

Astonished critics have slammed the move, saying the company seems to have been "rewarded for its failures".

Government transport chiefs, how-

ever, say it forms part of a major overhaul to rail services, including staggering franchise awards with a revised timetable covering the next eight years.

Under the plans, Southeastern – which had already been handed a two-year extension to 2014 – will run Kent's rail services until 2018, when the franchise will go out to tender.

Co-founder of the Alliance of Kent Commuters, John Nicholson, said it came as a "body blow".

"I'm just absolutely dumbfounded that an amateur operator which is completely ignorant to passengers' needs can be awarded an extension," he said.

"I'm amazed this has happened. I'm disgusted by this. I would question whether it is even legal.

"Quoting Star Wars – there was a new hope. The franchise was due to expire next year. Instead we've got another 50 months of this shambles."

Conservative MP for Chatham and Aylesford, Tracey Crouch, said the message being sent out was Southeastern was being "rewarded for failure".

"I understand what the Department

for Transport (DfT) has done in terms of staggering franchises so they happen at different times rather than all at once," she said. "What I don't understand is why Southeastern has had the longest extension.

"It's one of the worst performing train operators and the most expensive, but it's been given an additional extension without any consultation.

"I've written to the secretary of state. I understand it may be because of the massive works at London Bridge which will end in 2016; the DfT wants continuity with the franchise operator while that is carried out, but I know no more than that."

Southeastern hit back at the criticism, saying it had improved services.

A spokeswoman said: "Southeastern has a strong record of improving services for customers over the past seven years – with record levels of punctuality and customer satisfaction.

"It will continue to work with Network Rail and other industry partners to carry on improving services for passengers."

A DfT spokesman said the department's preference was to renegotiate with the current operator instead of bringing in a new company in 2014.

Transport secretary Patrick McLoughlin said the programme was a major step in delivering "tangible improvements to services, providing long-term certainty to the market and supporting the programme of rail investment".

He added: "Above all, in future franchise competitions we are placing passengers in the driving seat by ensuring their views and satisfaction levels are taken into account when deciding which companies run our railway services."

But former under-secretary at DfT, Paul Twyman, who lives in Thanet, disagrees. He said: "The new arrangements will bring no improvement for the passenger. The notion that the department will listen to passengers when reviewing the franchise is naïve.

"What matters is how the service is monitored and what levers are available during the term of the contract. But that requires thought and care beyond the DfT and its advisers."

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FOOD

Celebrity MasterChef winner charts success in village pub

Atomic Kitten star goes from stage to kitchen in new culinary venture

By Joe Bill

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A VILLAGE pub has sprinkled some stardust in its kitchens after joining forces with a member of chart-topping girl group Atomic Kitten.

Singer Liz McClarnon, 31, has already proved her culinary credentials after winning BBC One's Celebrity MasterChef in 2008, and now she has been appointed food ambassador at the refurbished Kings Head pub in Wye, near Ashford.

Its landlord is Scott Richardson – who has acted as her manager for a number of years.

As a founding member of Atomic Kitten, she enjoyed three number one singles – including Whole Again and Eternal Flame – and two number one albums.

But now she's cooking up hits in the pub's kitchen as well as honing her skills at the renowned Ashburton Cookery School in Devon.

She told KoS: "Scott is my manager and my best friend.

"My passion now is so much about food. There are so many things I want to know that I can't without training. So I would love to be able to spend some time honing my skills."

Ms McClarnon will create one dish per month for the Kings Head, with all her recipes going online for visitors to download.

She added: "Most of them will be MasterChef dishes. People seem to like the idea of having the recipes and the first dish will be the one which won the show – beef wellington."

Ms McClarnon lives in north Lon-



HIGH NOTES: Liz McClarnon will be the food ambassador at Kings Head in Wye



don, but is a regular visitor to Wye and hopes to spend more time at the pub over the coming months.

However, she has a busy schedule. An accomplished star on stage and screen, she is currently working again with Atomic Kitten as part of ITV2's The Big Reunion show and tour, which starts in May, as part of a line-up which includes a host of reunited pop acts from the 90s.

She added: "Cooking is a hobby that became something I would do as a job. It relaxes me too. But I could never not be on stage, that is too addictive.

"I love them both equally."

BREAK FROM THE NORM

IN AN unusual move, brewer Shepherd Neame has allowed the management team at its Kings Head pub in Wye to remove the company's traditional branding and replace it with their own.

In addition, although stocking some of the Faversham brewers' beers, the landlord is free to choose which other beers the pub stocks.

Pub manager Scott Richardson said: "There are a lot of Shepherd Neame pubs around here so we wanted to make it different and the concept that we came up with they just loved."

A spokesman for the Faversham brewer explained the new branding idea.

He said: "Our joint investment with the licensees at the Kings Head is one of the many ways in which a tenancy can suit entrepreneurs who are looking to run their own business.

"We welcome applicants who have a vision of the type of pub they wish to run, whether they're looking to build trade based on food, beer, wine or entertainment."

POLITICS

Fallon's reshuffle boost

SEVENOAKS MP Michael Fallon has added to his power base within the Coalition after a mini-reshuffle on Thursday morning.

The business minister will now also assume a similar role at the Department of Energy and Climate Change.

He replaces former energy minister John Hayes, who remains in the Cabinet Office as minister without portfolio.

It is thought the move will ensure the energy department assumes a stronger business focus.

ELECTIONS

Don't miss vote chance

IF YOU want to vote in May's Kent County Council elections, you have just two weeks left to ensure you are on the electoral register.

The deadline to ensure you can vote is April 17. The county council elections take place on May 2.

To register online, visit www.aboutmyvote.co.uk or contact your local council.

INTERNET

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CRIME

Shop worker tried to con syndicate out of an £80,000 Lotto ticket win

A SHOP assistant from Gravesend has been found guilty of trying to con a National Lottery syndicate out of almost £80,000 by trying to convince them they had won just £10.

Imran Pervais, of Milton Road, who was working at Moores Convenience Store on Mackenzie Way, told the syndicate group they had won just £10 when they called in to check the numbers and buy more.

In fact, the syndicate, who all worked for a company in Chatham, had scooped £79,887 after matching five numbers and the bonus ball.

The 26-year-old was found guilty of fraud by false representation following a two-day trial at Maidstone Crown Court. He will be sentenced at the end of April.

The victim, who buys 28 lottery lines a week as part of a syndicate with work colleagues, had gone into the store on May 18 last year to check four lottery tickets that had been bought the week before.

He was told by Pervais that one of the tickets had won £10, during which time another winning receipt was being printed.

The victim said: "What's that? Another

tenner?" Pervais was said to have replied: "Yes."

It was only when the victim returned to work and checked the numbers that he realised the truth. But when he went back to the shop, Pervais simply gave him a number of bin bags to check through, to find the winning ticket.

Eventually, wooden plinths were removed from the back of the counter, revealing a number of pink winning slips and the victim's screwed-up winning ticket.

A probe was launched by Camelot which found that all four tickets had been scanned, including the one with the significant prize. A matter of minutes later the winning ticket was scanned again and a lottery results sheet printed out which would indicate how many numbers had been matched.

Pervais denied double scanning the winning ticket and was subsequently arrested on June 15.

DC Angela Costin said: "Pervais was placed in a position of trust and he abused that trust in an attempt to make a significant monetary gain for himself. I hope this reminds the public to check their tickets for themselves."

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News

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TELEVISION

Suede line up
for TV show

FILMING of the new series of popular live music show Later...with Jools Holland gets under way in Maidstone on April 9.

Maidstone Television Studios is the new home for the show, which will kick off its 42nd series with performances from the likes of Suede and Cat Power. The show had previously been recorded at BBC Television Centre.

TRANSPORT

Port strike
chaos averted

TRAVEL chaos at the ports was averted just before the busy Easter weekend after a last minute deal was reached with militant French port workers.

They had threatened to go on a 24-strike on Friday in a dispute over pay. Such a move would have likely forced Kent Police to implement Operation Stack on the M20, turning the motorway into a lorry park.



HEADLINERS: Rockers will perform on the Saturday night

MUSIC

Stones at festival

DARTFORD rockers the Rolling Stones have been confirmed as headliners at this summer's Glastonbury Festival.

They will perform on the Saturday night in what will be the band's first appearance at the hugely popular music event.

The festival takes place in Somerset over June 28-30. The event, which attracts an audience of 177,500, is already sold out.

Other acts performing include the Arctic Monkeys, Mumford and Sons, Elvis Costello, Kenny Rogers, Ben Howard and Public Image Limited.

The festival is televised by the BBC. Mick Jagger said: "I can't wait. I have my wellies ready."

ENVIRONMENT

Success in 2013
Good Beach Guide
shows Kent is on
to a 'shore' thing

Our coastline boasts some of UK's best water, something tourist chiefs are keen to promote

By Marijke Cox

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FORGET Devon and Cornwall, it's Kent's beaches hitting the top spot in the latest Good Beach Guide... all we need now is some sunshine.

Of the county's 30 beaches, 25 received top marks by the Marine Conservation Society (MCS).

Among those were beaches in Leysdown, Sheerness, Whitstable, Deal and Dymchurch.

All of which will underline tourist chiefs' mantra that Kent's coastline should become a must-visit destination for both tourists and residents.

Just five failed to make the 'recommended' grade – the MCS's standard for excellent water quality. Heavy rainfall is blamed for allowing pollution to seep into the sea.

Littlestone, near New Romney, was ranked as mandatory – the standard for minimum water quality – as was Broadstairs' popular Viking Bay.

Ramsgate Western Undercliffe dropped from recommended in last year's guide to mandatory while Joss Bay in Broadstairs also dropped down a grade.

All samples were taken during summer 2012.

Thanet District Council was forced to shut all the district's beaches to swimmers for more than a week in June last year, after raw sewage was discharged into the sea from Southern Water's sewage pumping station at Foreness Point following heavy rain.

But despite this, the majority of the isle's

beaches came out relatively unscathed, with just four of its 13 missing the recommended mark in the MCS's Good Beach Guide 2013.

Not one of Kent's beaches failed the MCS's bathing water standards.

The rest of the country did not fare so well with many losing their recommended status.

Coastal pollution officer at MCS, Rachel Wyatt, said last year's wet summer had led to more sewage in the seas nationally.

"There is no simple solution to sewage and animal waste reaching our seas," she said.

"However, if the water industry, communities and local authorities recognise there is a problem and begin to work together to find answers then that would be a significant start."

Chief executive of Visit Kent, Sandra Matthews-Marsh, said it was good news for the county.

She said: "The Kent coastline, our fabulous beaches and the increasing range of water sports now available, are a very important part of our visitor economy."

"We must continue to do all we can to ensure our water quality remains high which, as this report shows, is not simple and very dependent on levels of rainfall which are out of our control."

"This recognition of the safety of bathing right along our coast, with not one of our beaches failing the MCS standards this year, follows on from Viking Bay in Broadstairs gaining a Best in Britain accolade from TripAdvisor as one of the best beaches in Britain."



SWEPT AWAY: (From left to right) Stone Bay in Broadstairs, the sands at Folkestone, Tankerton and the

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OH, HAPPY DAYS:
Margate's beaches yet again received a recommended mark



HOW OUR BEACHES COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR

BEACH	2013	2012
Littlestone	Mandatory	Mandatory
St Mary's Bay	Recommended	Recommended
Dymchurch	Recommended	Recommended
Hythe	Recommended	Recommended
Sandgate	Recommended	Recommended
Folkestone	Recommended	Guideline
Dover Harbour	Recommended	Recommended
St Margaret's Bay	Recommended	Recommended
Deal Castle	Recommended	Mandatory
Sandwich Bay	Recommended	Recommended
Ramsgate Western Undercliffe	Mandatory	Recommended
Ramsgate Sands	Recommended	Recommended
Broadstairs, Viking Bay	Mandatory	Mandatory
Broadstairs, Stone Bay	Recommended	Recommended
Joss Bay, Broadstairs	Mandatory	Guideline
Botany Bay, Broadstairs	Recommended	Recommended
Walpole Bay, Margate	Mandatory	Fail
Margate Fulsam Rock	Recommended	Recommended
Margate The Bay	Recommended	Recommended
Westbrook Bay, Margate	Recommended	Recommended
St Mildred's Bay, Westgate	Recommended	Recommended
West Bay, Westgate	Recommended	Recommended
Minnis Bay, Birchington	Recommended	Recommended
Herne Bay	Recommended	Mandatory
Herne Bay Central	Recommended	Recommended
Tankerton	Recommended	Recommended
West Beach, Whitstable	Recommended	Recommended
Leysdown	Recommended	Mandatory
Minster Leas	Recommended	Mandatory
Sheerness	Recommended	Mandatory



Recommended: Excellent water quality; **Guideline:** High water quality; **Mandatory:** Minimum water quality; **Fail:** Did not meet minimum standards



stunning Botany Bay also in Broadstairs were among the many Kent beaches that made this year's guide

EDUCATION

Area's industrial past returns to classroom as UTC bid is approved

By Chris Britcher
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MEDWAY has been successful in its bid for a University Technical College - with the Government this week giving the green light for what will become a key component of the area's education offering.

Billed as "a new concept in secondary education", it will form part of the secondary system, offering an alternative to traditional schools.

It will offer 14-18-year-olds the opportunity to pursue technically-orientated courses with clear routes into jobs or higher education.

It will specialise in engineering and construction - Medway's traditional industries - and will be sponsored by the University of Greenwich, Mid-Kent College, Medway Council and local employers.

Work to get the college up and running will start immediately. No site has been officially confirmed, but it is likely to be



on land at Brompton.

Professor Alan Reed, director of regional development at the University of Greenwich and chair of the Medway UTC Partnership, said: "This college will provide a third option to secondary education, as well as a lasting legacy to Medway and the wider sub-region."

In 2012, as part of the UTC bid, more than 800 people across Medway and Kent were asked what they thought of the idea, and an overwhelming majority of those asked backed it. A previous bid submitted last year was turned down.

HERITAGE

Museums in cash boost

CHATHAM Historic Dockyard and the Powell Cotton Museum in Birchington have both received a share of a £1m grant from the Arts Council.

Both museums will use the money to invest in attractions to help boost visitor numbers. The dockyard has received £466,500 while the Thanet museum received £240,000. The money comes from the Renaissance Support Fund.

POLICE

Quiz county's crime fighters

GET your chance to put questions directly to Police and Crime Commissioner Ann Barnes when she stages a 'meet the commissioner' event at the Shepherd Neame brewery in Faversham on April 24.

Chief Constable Ian Learmonth will also attend. To reserve a place visit www.kent-pcc.gov.uk or call 01622 677055 by April 16.



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BUSINESS

Heavy losses force Kent to put popular ground on ice as it prays for sunny days

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

BECKENHAM is being put on ice as a venue for first-class cricket this season as part of Kent County Cricket Club's latest round of cost-cutting after they confirmed losses of more than £628,000 last year.

But the decision to leave a ground which had proved popular with crowds on the Kent/London borders, will be a blow to many fans.

A winter cost-saving programme had already resulted in an unspecified number of redundancies with a drop in day-to-day activities at the ground.

Kent says it will host a handful of second XI games at the venue while its conference, banqueting and pitch hire facilities will cease. However, the club said they will be open to one-off bookings if it proves financially viable, with existing bookings until mid-April still being honoured.

The county had braced itself for poor financial results following last season's poor weather which affected ticket sales and big events.

It posted post-tax losses of £628,054



FAREWELL: KCCC's chief executive Jamie Clifford said Beckenham running costs were too high

but was keen to stress the total losses of £272,294 before interest, taxes, depreciation and amortisation, builds on a four-year improvement from 2009, when the county lost more than £640,000.

The county made a £50,000 loss when the week-long Tunbridge Wells Festival was washed out while they also cited competing for audiences with the Olympics, and Euro 2012 as having an impact on their worst

attendance figures since 2004.

Tunbridge Wells' Nevill Ground will now be the club's only venue outside of its Canterbury headquarters.

Kent chief executive Jamie Clifford said: "We have reduced our activity at Beckenham and a number of redundancies have been made. That has not been pleasant to work through.

"The fact we have gone from losses of £640,000 in 2009 to £272,000 this year is a positive movement in the

right direction. We had intended to close that gap by now, that was the frustrating thing about last year."

Beckenham had been earmarked for big improvements, with an indoor cricket school, replacement astroturf pitches and 2,000 spectator seats on the agenda. But the financial climate has seen those plans put on hold.

Mr Clifford added: "Given the running costs we had to address that. It was never set up to survive on one or

two games a year. It's got to be a venue in its own right."

Selling the naming rights to the St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury and holding concerts at the city venue have not been ruled out.

The club also has new income streams from the rent of the Sainsbury's Local store below its new administration offices while there are more cost-effective catering arrangements in place this year.

ECONOMIC COLLAPSE HIT PLANS

KENT'S business plans over the last decade have certainly been ambitious, but were bowled a googly when the economy took a nosedive.

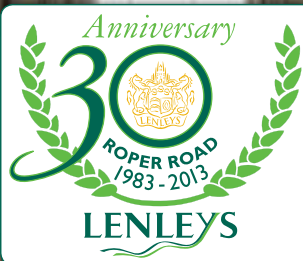
The club's historic St Lawrence Ground in Canterbury was to be turned into a year-round revenue generating operation, boasting hotel, conference facilities and retail and residential add-ons.

It would be funded by selling-off prime land the club used for car parking to a housing developer.

But with the economic slump demand has dwindled.

Just this month the club confirmed the plan's cornerstone – the hotel complex – has now been shelved. Instead a deal to build retirement homes will take its place.

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ATTRACTIONS

Reprive for Hop Farm as in-house investment ensures top attraction can look towards future

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

THE future of one of the county's top tourist attractions has been given a major boost after it was rescued from a financial quagmire.

Hop Farm Trading, the trading arm of much of the popular site in Paddock Wood, went into liquidation earlier this month after a difficult trading year delivered heavy losses.

It blamed last year's poor weather and the loss of key events such as the War and Peace Show which announced it was moving to Folkestone as of this summer.

While it operated only some of the attractions at the park, fears were some of the Hop Farm's favourite attractions could be at risk.

And it meant the doors of the venue – which boasts one of the world's largest collections of Victorian oast houses and a history stretching back five centuries – were closed.

But liquidators struck a deal with another company within the Hop Farm Group to ensure the site's future.

It will open again this weekend to welcome thousands of visitors – with free entrance over the Easter period.

In a joint statement from liquidators, Susan Maund and Thomas D'Arcy, they confirmed: "We are pleased to report an offer was made by a company within the Hop Farm Group of com-



BACK: Paddock Wood site will be open for Easter

panies which substantially exceeds the anticipated realisable value of the assets.

"A full report of the sale will be provided to creditors in due course. However, the sale will result in a substantially enhanced return to the creditors in the liquidation."

The new Hop Farm management team is introducing a 'pay while you play' concept, where customers can choose and pay for any of the attractions on an individual basis.

A spokesperson for the team said: "The 2013 season will see a number of new events and attractions and the Hop Farm is in the final stages of planning these which will include new children's rides, indoor attractions, historical vintage fun fairs, craft markets, farmers markets, music festival and lots more."

FANS' DISCHORD OVER RESHAPED FESTIVAL LINE-UP

ORGANISERS of the Hop Farm Festival unveiled a dramatically slimmed down event this week, with the music event seeing a big drop in its capacity and calibre of performers.

The event has hired out the Paddock Wood venue for the last five years.

Promoter Vince Power (inset) saw his previous company go bust after last summer's event, putting into doubt this year's show.

As KoS revealed, the company collapsed owing thousands to creditors, including more than £22,000 to Kent Police.

This week, Mr Power, who formed a new company shortly after the collapse of his previous business, confirmed the festival would take place on July 5-6 – just two days compared to three last year.

The capacity has also been slashed from more than 50,000 to just 10,000.

Headliners will be reformed indie band My Bloody Valentine and folk singer Rodriguez – a far cry from the likes of

Prince, Bob Dylan, Morrissey and Neil Young from previous years.

The line-up sparked plenty of angry comments online from festival-goers who had bought 'earlybird' tickets expecting the same scale of event from years gone by.

It puts the event now as a direct competitor to Canterbury's well-established Lounge on the Farm festival.

Lounge founder Sean Baker said:

"Although the Hop Farm has repositioned itself within the local market to align with us, we do not see them as competition and welcome any boost to Kent that is beneficial to its cultural and economic growth, adding to the vibrant Kent festivals scene.

"We are Kent's longest running music and arts festival and we're committed to building a sustainable cultural future for Kent. No other festival can offer the mix we do."

■ **For Lounge on the Farm details, headlined this year by Soul II Soul and Seasick Steve, visit www.loungeonthefarm.co.uk.**



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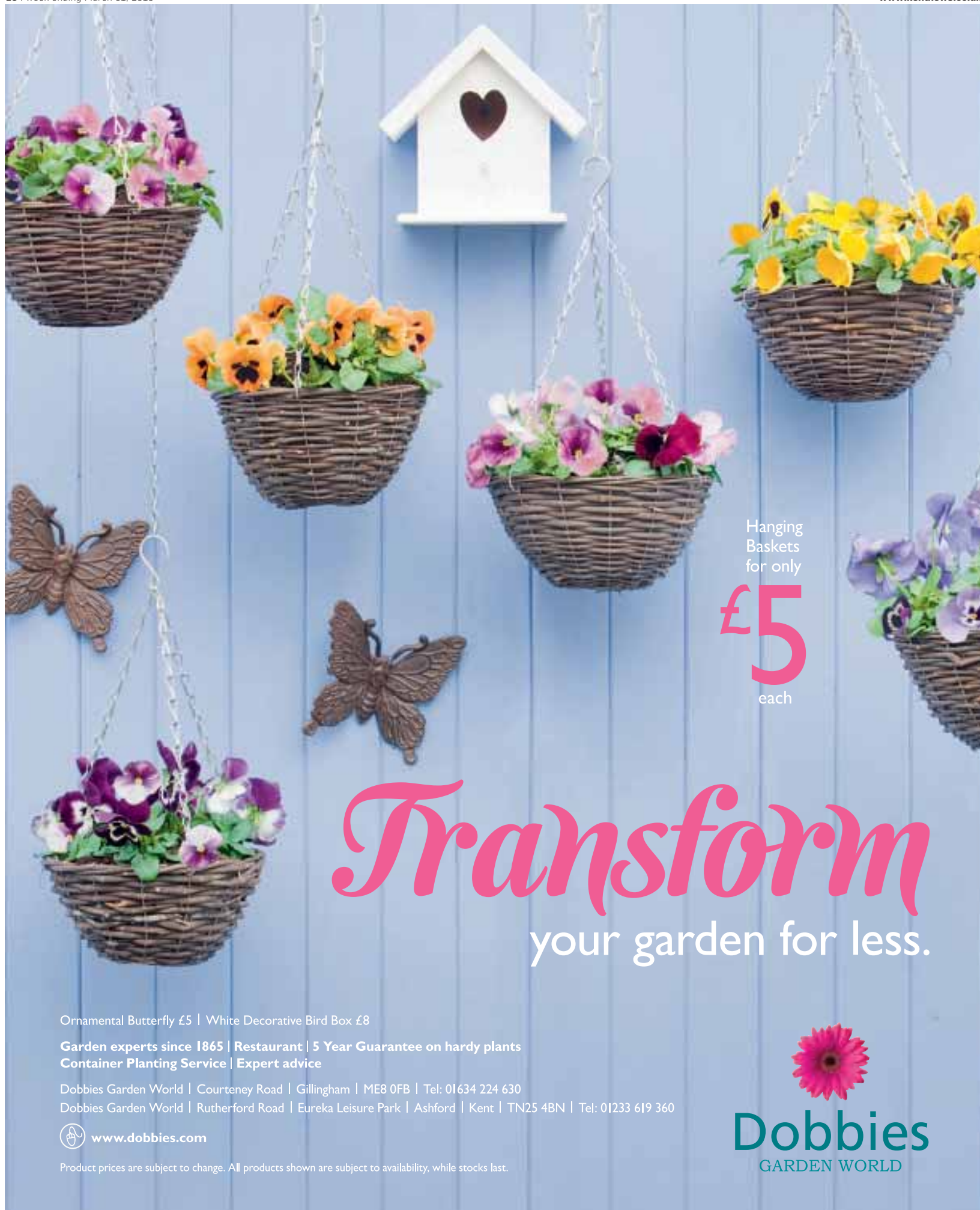
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HEALTH

We're ready for NHS 111 helpline to be rolled out, say health executives

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

HEALTH bosses in Kent say a staggered approach to the roll-out of the NHS 111 number will allow them to address any teething problems with the new service.

The reassurance from the county's National Health Service follows calls for the widespread launch of the new number to be delayed.

It is due to go live towards the end of April in Kent and Medway.

British Medical Association (BMA) chiefs believe the service – a non-emergency advice line – does not yet work properly in some areas of the country and could therefore put patients at risk.

Pilot schemes nationally have proved problematic, with the volume of calls causing some people to be left on hold for hours while they attempt to seek medical advice.

The BMA has urged health minister Lord Earl Howe and NHS Commissioning Board chief executive Sir David Nicholson to delay the nationwide launch to help ensure a smooth transition.

BMA committee chair Laurence Buckman says some areas are not ready for the changeover.

But it seems Kent and Medway are at the forefront, already poised to address any issues that may arise.

Dr Peter Stott, NHS 111 regional clinical lead, said the county has started with a limited

roll-out to help prepare for any problems.

"The initial phase of roll-out in Kent and Medway has started with the new service handling calls for GP out-of-hours services," he said.

"Starting with this limited level of calls has enabled the service to address the teething problems which are to be expected with any new service in its first few days."

He said the new number will make it easier for patients and the public to access urgent local healthcare.

Dr Stott explained: "NHS 111 provides a free-to-call, easy to remember number which should be used when medical help is needed fast, but it is not a life-threatening situation."

"A campaign to inform the public will be launched when the service goes live in our area."

BMA's Dr Buckman wrote to the health minister this week warning the new service could end up placing a strain on already over-stretched parts of the NHS, such as the ambulance service.

Health minister Lord Howe said the Government was aware of problems in some areas.

"Patients deserve better and NHS England is urgently working with the providers of the service to make sure they have the right number of call handlers in place," he said.

"NHS England has already written to all clinical commissioning groups to ensure all organisations are fully prepared and have cover in place for the busy Easter period."

What is NHS 111?

IT'S a new free telephone service designed to direct people with urgent, but non-life threatening conditions to the right part of the NHS quickly.

It is staffed by a team of fully trained advisers, supported by experienced nurses.

They will ask questions to assess symptoms, then give healthcare advice or direct the caller immediately to the local service that can help them best.

When should you call the new number?

- if you need medical help fast but it's not a 999 emergency
 - if you think you need to go to A&E or need another NHS urgent care service
 - if you don't know who to call or you don't have a GP to call
 - if you need any health information or reassurance about what to do next
- For immediate, life-threatening emergencies, continue to call 999.
- For health information and advice, they can contact NHS Direct on 0845 46 47.

WILDLIFE

Blow for butterflies

BUTTERFLIES were the silent victims of last year's appalling weather with experts reporting they were hit hard across the county as well as nationally.

Dr Tom Brereton from Butterfly Conservation said: "It was a terrible year for butterflies in Kent like everywhere else in 2012. Across the UK 52 of 56 species declined from 2011-2012 and 13 had their worst ever year."

RETAIL

Supermarket job hope

UP TO 350 jobs could be created in Maidstone on the premises of the defunct Powerhub building if plans for a new supermarket, office and leisure facilities get the green light.

Local development company Baltic Wharf have submitted plans to Maidstone council which will be ruled on in the summer. The local Green Party has expressed fears over traffic.

CHARITY

Cash for cancer sport

SPORT England is to fund a project in Medway in a bid to target thousands of the least active members of the community.

It is among 14 projects around the UK to get a share in the £130m lottery cash pot. Macmillan Cancer Care will receive £500,000 to open up fresh sporting opportunities for cancer patients aged between 14-25 in Medway and Oxford.

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INTERNATIONAL RESCUE

RAF search and rescue operations are to be replaced by a US company which intends to fly from a new base at Manston.

The Department for Transport has announced the Bristow Group has won a 10-year contract to provide the service from 2015 in a £1.6bn deal, which will also create 350 new UK jobs.

Bristow, based in Houston in the US, will replace RAF and Royal Navy Sea King helicopters with Sikorsky S-92s and AgustaWestland 189s.

Under the new contract, 22 helicopters will operate from 10 locations around the UK. Two Westlands will be based at Manston and will be responsible for one of the busiest shipping lanes in the world.



SEARCH: American firm Bristow already operates in Scotland

Other operations will be conducted from Stornoway, Sumburgh, Newquay, Caernarfon and Humberston airports, Lee-on-Solent, Prestwick airport, St Athan and Inverness.

Bristow, which is already running rescue operations in Scotland, said it intends to

employ some RAF and Royal Navy pilots, engineers and rescue experts in its fleet.

The Government says the new deal means helicopters "will be able to reach a larger area of the UK search and rescue region within one hour of take-off than is currently possible".



GATEWAY: The KLM service will make Manston Airport a valuable link to 130 destinations worldwide

TRAVEL

High hopes for airport as Amsterdam flights get ready for take-off

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

BOSSES at Manston Airport insist its latest venture will take off and gather pace – despite the string of high-profile failures in the past.

Excitement is building at the Thanet terminal ahead of the start of services from Dutch airline KLM. It will fly twice daily services to Amsterdam's international hub airport, Schiphol. From there, passengers can reach some 130 destinations worldwide.

The first flight takes off on Tuesday.

It is hoped the service will prove a popular choice for travellers in the county eager to avoid the M25 in order to access the likes of Gatwick, Heathrow and Stansted.

But there is also plenty of scepticism given previous efforts to establish the airport as a popular option for passengers.

Efforts by EUjet to offer budget flights in 2005 were short-lived. Then a much-trumpeted service – heavily backed financially by Kent County Council – to fly to Virginia in the US via tour operator Cosmos and its Monarch sister airline failed to take off in 2007.

A year later, in 2008, a Spanish charter carrier trading as Kent Escapes also ground to a halt.

More recently, Flybe ceased operating daily services from Manston to Edinburgh, Belfast and Manchester.

Hopes of attracting another operator then hit problems after Thanet District Council said it was opposing airport plans for night flights – seen

as a necessity for many of the main carriers.

But Manston bosses insist the KLM venture will be different.

KLM already operates out of more than a dozen UK airports, and although tight-lipped over how ticket sales have performed since it announced the Manston route last year, it claims "we're happy with the sales so far".

Manston's chief executive Charles Buchanan said: "KLM is a brand name, which makes it totally different to what has gone before."

"What we now have is a grown-up, well established airline with a track record in successful operations at 15 other airports around the UK and a presence around the world."

"This is poles apart from anything that has gone before. All the other airlines had issues surrounding them. For instance, EUjet expanded far too quickly. Here we are seeing the steady and progressive development which we have always wanted for Manston."

Manston Airport is owned by New Zealand-based company Infratil, which has holdings in renewable energy, oil and gas, as well as transport and aviation.

The company put the airport up for sale, but as yet it has seen no takers.

Mr Buchanan said KLM's move shows "a massive vote of confidence" for its future. The operation has already seen 42 new jobs created and the opening of a new facility at the airport aimed at business travellers.

■ **Turn to our business pages for more on Manston Airport.**

How you can help write the rules for the Press

The British Press has pledged an urgent reform of its regulation, to restore trust in the wake of the Leveson Report. So it is seeking help from those who know best: You – the public, the **40 million readers** of the UK's newspapers and magazines.

The Editors' Code of Practice Committee has launched a review of the Editors' Code that sets the rules for the British Press. It is inviting the public to contribute by suggesting changes to be incorporated into the Code of Practice, or The Editors' Codebook which accompanies it. You can view both the Code and Codebook at www.editorscodereview.org.uk where you can lodge suggested amendments. Or you can send your suggestions by post to: Editors' Code Review, PO Box 235, Stonehouse, GL10 3UF. Closing date for suggestions is April 17.

So, if you would like to see a change in the rules, why not let us know? A free and independent Press is only as strong as its readers.

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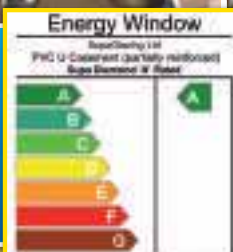
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SPORT

Spectacle or scandal? Animal Aid reopens the Grand National debate

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A LEADING animal rights group says moves to make the Grand National safer have not gone far enough, as the sporting world prepares to turn its attention to one of the highlights on the horse racing calendar.

Tonbridge-based charity Animal Aid insists the world-famous event should be banned in a bid to protect the horses that undertake the gruelling four miles-plus race over some of the sport's most intimidating fences.

Changes announced to this year's race, on Saturday, April 6, at Aintree in Liverpool, include shortening the distance and changing the core construction of fences from wood to a more flexible plastic material.

But animal welfare campaigners say these do not go far enough.

Dene Stansall is Animal Aid's horse racing expert and looks after two former racehorses. His grandfather worked as an Aintree bookmaker and he has studied the most famous racing event in the world for many years.

Mr Stansall said: "As an organisation we do not campaign to see racing banned, but we do

want to see the Grand National banned.

"In the last 10 years, nine horses have died of injuries sustained in the race. This is the most over any decade since it officially started in 1839.

"There have been some changes made, but they are not enough. The number of runners is 40 and that is far too many.

"The course may be shortened, but it is still too long. That is another cause of horse deaths; runners can die of sheer exhaustion."

Mr Stansall said he spoke to his grandfather, who had wide experience of the Aintree course and the race itself.

"He told me, in his view, the horses were scared of the fences, as even now they are unlike anything else they come across because of their size. He always said the tough ones are the only ones who will finish. It's like two boxers slugging it out – but the course is the real opponent."

Race organisers have shifted the start line forward 90 yards in a bid to prevent the regular false starts which have dogged recent races.

In a statement issued by the Professional Jockeys' Association, jockeys in this year's race are advised not to group together when the race begins and to take the first few fences slower to prevent fallers.



THE DAY THE COUNTRY GOES TO THE BOOKIES

THE Grand National is the highest profile race over jumps in the horse racing calendar in this country.

Traditionally, it is a day which sees millions of people have a once-yearly flutter on a race which is notoriously hard to predict due to the sheer number of horses of varying form and conditions of the race track.

Stray horses and a misplaced leap can see favourites fall at the first hurdle and outsiders sweep to surprise victories. In 2009, Mon Mome, a 100-1 outsider won. For the first time, the 2013 race will be broadcast on Channel 4 after the BBC lost the TV rights.

Winners in recent years

2012	Neptune Collonges	33/1
2011	Ballabriggs	14/1
2010	Don't Push It	10/1
2009	Mon Mome	100/1
2008	Comply or Die	7/1

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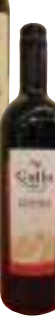


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HEALTH

Parents' desperate appeal for funds to prolong life of sick baby daughter

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

PARENTS of a little girl who suffers from the incurable disease cystic fibrosis are making a desperate appeal to raise the money they need to try and improve and extend her life.

Leia Corbett is just one year old and has already undergone two major operations.

But now her parents want to raise the £4,000 needed to buy a special physio vest – unavailable on the NHS – which could prove the difference between life and death.

Her mother, Kelly Corbett, 20, said: "It is a constant battle to keep Leia alive. The condition affects mainly the lungs and digestive system, by clogging them with thick sticky mucus.

"Leia is currently on a lot of medication including antibiotics, nebulisers and inhalers and has to have twice daily chest physio therapy called percussion."

The 20-year-old photographer, who lives in Maidstone with her meter-fitter husband Sam, 22, and their three-year-old daughter Hollie, said percussion is starting to fail in keeping the mucus on the move, which is why they now need to invest in a physio vest.

Mrs Corbett said: "They are a lot of money at first – more than £4,000 – but the actual vest part can grow with Leia. The initial vest will last until she is around four or five then a larger size can be bought for a fraction of the initial outlay.

"She is at the age now she doesn't like to lay still, so things are becoming very difficult.

■ Cystic fibrosis (CF) is one of the UK's most common life-threatening hereditary diseases caused by a faulty gene that controls the movement of salt and water in and out of the cells within the body.
 ■ More than 9,000 people in the UK have CF.
 ■ Currently half of the CF population will live past 41 years of age, and improvements in treatments mean a baby born today is expected to live even longer.

(Source: Cystic Fibrosis Trust)

"Sam and I know everyone is finding life hard at the moment, but we are desperate to give Leia the best chance possible of surviving.

"A physio vest won't cure her – there is no cure. But it will improve her standard of living.

"The vest vibrates to loosen and thin the

mucus which will help with Leia's breathing."

The couple have a Facebook page to raise awareness at www.facebook.com/LeiasStory and are taking Paypal donations at Kelly3611@live.co.uk or money and cheques can be sent to their home at 9 Morton Way, Maidstone, ME1 5 6ZG.



IN NEED: A physio vest would improve Leia's life

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News

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NATURE

They're back...string of escapes sparks rise in wild boar roaming our countryside

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

OVER the centuries, the native species of wild boar which once roamed freely around the county, were slowly but surely killed off.

A popular hunting target of monarchs and game enthusiasts, the animal is believed to have become extinct in Kent in around the 17th century.

Since then, however, there have been plenty of efforts to re-introduce them; placing breeds from Europe in a bid to develop a population. Yet numbers remained small.

Until, that is, now. Because it seems wild boar is finally making a comeback.

Experts believe its population has been boosted by escaped animals from zoos and private collections to the extent that there could now be more than 1,000 roaming in the county's woodlands.

Sightings include King's Wood in Challock, near Ashford, and Yorklets near Whitstable.

British wildlife expert, and chief executive of the Wildwood Trust in Canterbury, Peter Smith, explained: "We

Pictures: MATTHEW DAKIN



SECRETIVE: Peter Smith says wild boar generally shy away from people

have a very slow spread of wild boar that has happened over the past 30 years from various farm escapes.

"They have spread out to more areas and their range has increased. There is no proper population census, but my guess is there are about 1,000 or so in Kent. The last census was by the Forestry Commission a few years ago and probably under-represented them, showing only 400 boars or so."

Describing where they can be found, he said: "They do well in areas such as natural woodland habitats, like heaths.

"They are in places like the Weald and there is a mainstay on the Kent and Sussex border which are highly wooded areas.

"Wild boar have their offspring in late January so there are young piglets, and because of the cold weather

there is not vegetation growing up so you are more likely to see them."

An adult male wild boar can grow to a staggering 300lbs, but Mr Smith says they are nothing to be afraid of.

He explains: "They are a sizeable animal. I think that is what makes them so interesting because they look powerful.

"It gets to the root cause of our primal fears.

"Mankind grew up 100,000 years ago and our evolution was with dangerous animals around us – we have that fear in our souls. That primal fear is what makes us go out and kill everything except for those animals which we deem acceptable.

"The real dangers are minimal. You are more likely to die in a car crash than from a wild boar injury.

"They don't attack humans. There have been a few cases where dogs have attacked piglets and the sows have come to the rescue.

"But there is no good evidence to show that of the thousands of wild boar in the UK that there has been any serious negative effect. People interpret events where they have come across wild boar as more dangerous

SPOT A BOAR?

- If walking in an area known to be occupied by boar, dogs should be kept on a lead.
- Avoid walking through dense undergrowth where boar may be encountered at close quarters.
- If you see wild boar, do not approach; if possible leave by the same route you entered, giving the animals a wide berth.
- If you have a dog off the lead and it chases boar or will not return when called, stay at a safe distance and continue to call the dog; do not approach the boar.
- Sows with young piglets are potentially more dangerous than other boar because they may attempt to defend their young.

than they actually are because they are scared."

Wild boars are omnivores and scavenge for food, eating nuts, berries and plants as well as dead birds or rabbits.

Mr Smith is keen for the species to be left in peace, adding: "Without wild boar, oak trees will eventually die out because they will slowly, over many years, lose their genetic diversity.

"It is wild boars which carry the acorn and then drop it at different places which enables genetic diversity of oak trees. So if we kill the wild boar we will eventually kill the oak too."

■ Visit www.wildwoodtrust.org to find out more about wild boar.

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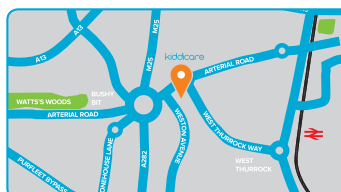


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LANDMARK

Weather takes its toll as part of the iconic white cliffs falls

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

A HUGE chunk of the iconic White Cliffs of Dover tumbled into the sea last weekend – narrowly avoiding nearby homes.

A combination of rainwater seeping into the chalk and then freezing and expanding, together with high winds, caused tonnes of chalk to be sheared off near St Margaret's Bay.

The frozen water first weakened the cliff and the winds then caused the rock to fall, the National Trust said.

"This cliff fall is part of a process of natural regeneration that happens on this world famous stretch of the Kent coast," said a spokesman.

"Throughout the year we closely monitor how the elements affect the chalk cliffs, helping us to manage the coastal footpath."

CLOSE CALL: The chalk landslide was very close to houses on the coast

Picture: KEVIN MUDGE-WOOD



EVENT

Craft fair is Handmade with Love

KENT has always been well known for its artistic folk and there will be an opportunity to meet some of them when a popular craft event returns to Tunbridge Wells.

The Handmade With Love fair on Saturday, April 13, will take place at Trinity Theatre, from 10am to

4pm, featuring an array of crafts, from crochet to confectionary, made by the stallholders.

Entertainment will be provided by singer and musician David Mumford, who supported Joan Armatrading during her UK tour.

Admission is £3, children free.

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TRANSPORT

Five million reasons to take heart, as cash promised to ease town's traffic nightmare

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

MOTORISTS have finally got to glimpse the light at the end of the tunnel at one of the county's most notorious traffic hot spots.

It comes after the Government gave the green light to a multi-million pound injection to fund improvements to the roads around the North Farm estate in Tunbridge Wells.

North Farm, which has morphed from an industrial estate into a major retail and leisure hub for the town – boasting restaurants and a multiplex cinema, in addition to major stores – regularly hits gridlock.

But the Department for Transport said it will be providing £3.5 million to fund upgrades, with Kent County Council adding an additional £1.5m to allow for a major £5m package.

It is one of just 10 schemes in the country to be selected for funding.

However, the improvements will not be in place for another two years, with work due to begin in April 2014 and completed by March 2015.

The announcement comes just weeks before the long-awaited public inquiry into the dualling of the A21 is due to begin – the town's other major trouble spot.

Tunbridge Wells MP Greg Clark is among the many in the town who have long voiced a



TROUBLES:
A21 is another traffic hot spot

IMPROVEMENTS

- Widen Longfield Road between Dowding Way roundabout and the A21 roundabout
- Introduce a new roundabout at the Kingstanding Way/Longfield Road junction
- Introduce a new roundabout to replace the T-junction at the Knights Park/Longfield Road junction
- Provide a gyratory-style junction at Great Lodge/Longfield Road junction



NO-GO ZONE:
North Farm will be improved

need for improvements. He said: "Businesses located in North Farm have been severely affected by traffic congestion. Customers are becoming increasingly unwilling to sit in long traffic jams, and lorry movements in and out of North Farm are also badly affected.

"The proposed road improvements should, therefore, be very positive for local businesses.

"For drivers in general, travelling through North Farm is a miserable experience so the announcement of the £5m funding scheme has made a lot of people in Tunbridge Wells very happy.

"In this month, we've had the announcement the A21 dualling public inquiry will begin and now this major investment in North Farm – there is real momentum behind sorting out the traffic chaos in Tunbridge Wells."

The funding is being provided under the Department for Transport's Local Pinch Point Fund Scheme, which has set aside £170 million to go towards financing projects that will have an immediate impact on improvements to infrastructure.

Kent County Council, Tunbridge Wells Bor-

ough Council and local businesses have said they will work closely together to help get the scheme under way and meet the deadline.

The project team will be working closely with the Highways Agency to minimise disruption to the public and businesses during construction.

Allan McDermott, portfolio holder for planning and transportation at Tunbridge Wells council, said the move would help the area economically.

He said: "This is a major boost to creating new, and safeguarding existing, jobs on the estate."

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News



CONTROVERSIAL: The year-long trial diverting traffic away from Westgate Towers is now due to end

TRANSPORT

Contentious road trial comes to an end amid row between councils

By Joe Bill

joe.bill@archant.co.uk

A **HUGELY** controversial traffic scheme which has divided public opinion and sparked heated debate between city and county council chiefs enters its latest phase next week as it is dismantled.

Canterbury City Council had implemented the year-long trial scheme to prevent traffic flowing through the historic Grade I-listed Westgate Towers and cut air pollution in the area.

The towers, described as one of the finest examples of a medieval fortified gatehouse, are one of the city's most prominent landmarks.

But as traffic was diverted, it sparked uproar among motorists who found themselves stuck in queues. Businesses also complained and it quickly became a key topic of conversation.

In January, transport chiefs at Kent County Council, which is responsible for highways, stepped in and demanded the trial be scrapped.

Canterbury council argued, however, that a report by the authority found the scheme had in fact lowered pollution and traffic levels.

But on Monday, April 8, work will begin to return the roads to their previous layout.

A spokesman for the city council said: "From early April it will be put back into the situation it was before. But then KCC will work with Canterbury City Council to find a more permanent solution because the most important thing is to find a long term answer to the traffic and pollution problems across Canterbury."

"We made a recommendation from our cabinet to KCC on the back of some research, which showed that the air quality, particularly in the areas we were targeting, has improved dramatically as a result of the trial."

"Obviously the traffic has been displaced and pollution has increased in other areas around Station Road West, but not to a worrying level."

"It has been very clear from the report that the trial has been successful so we made recom-

THE WORKS

Week starting Monday, April 8

Pedestrian crossing in North Lane will be reinstated.

Friday, April 12, (evening)

The 'planters' - used to guide vehicles around the towers - will be removed.

Saturday, April 13

Traffic signals will be removed on Saturday.

Sunday, April 14

The road will be resurfaced and the road markings laid out.

Sunday, April 21

The mini roundabout at the junction of St Dunstan's and Station Road West will be put back.

Closures

North Lane, the lower end of St Dunstan's - between Station Road West and North Lane - and St Peters Place will be closed from 7pm on April 12, until 11pm on April 14.

St Dunstan's and Station Road West will be closed on April 21, from 7am until 11pm. Traffic will be diverted from St Dunstan's onto London Road and Rheims Way.

mentations to KCC for the trial to be extended because of these factors and then find the best solution.

"But the roads will be put back how they were and we will work with KCC for a better solution. We are keen to address this as soon as we can."

Work beginning on April 8 will include the pedestrian crossing in North Lane being reinstated, traffic signals removed and the road resurfaced. KCC has warned to expect delays while the work is carried out.

A KCC spokeswoman said: "The experimental scheme is being removed and the results will be assessed to develop a permanent scheme following a full consultation with the community."

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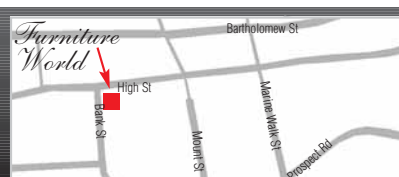
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News

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HEALTH

Shake-up of public health services puts control in lap of County Hall

By Marijke Cox

marijke.cox@archant.co.uk

COUNTY Hall chiefs are poised to take control of public health services as part of one of the biggest shake-ups to the health service in history.

From Monday, provision of 23 public health functions, including sexual health services and obesity support, will fall into the hands of Kent County Council (KCC) – and with it, a huge multi-million pound budget.

It forms part of a major overhaul to the National Health Service where GP-led clinical commissioning groups (CCGs) will take over from primary care trusts and take charge of how money is spent on healthcare including planning, and buying hospital, mental health and community services.

Some 40 members of staff – previously employed by primary care trusts – will move over to the county council and bring with them expertise to help improve people's health in Kent and Medway.

Director of public health at KCC, Meradin Peachey, told KoS it was a positive way of moving forward.

"We will commission services based on the county's needs and much of this is about prevention," she said.

"To start with, we have £49 million to spend and then a further allocation of £53m."

The 23 responsibilities – previously delivered by the NHS – include commissioning sexual health services, such as ensuring contraception is accessible and treatment for sexually transmitted illnesses available; drug and alcohol support; obesity and weight reduction services; accidents and injury prevention; and workplace health.

KCC will also be in charge of increasing levels of exercise across Kent as well as providing new mothers with breastfeeding advice and support.

Explaining how this new role interlinked with the new CCGs, Ms Peachey used obesity as an example.

"There are four tiers: level one involves advice to do more exercise (from the council); level two is when the person is overweight, the council will continue to provide support; level three, morbidly obese, again, the council will work with health professionals to offer support.

"For level four, the person needs surgery, the CCG will then pay for that out of its budget."

She said KCC and Kent's eight CCGs will work together and she had also insisted a public health consultant was on each of the CCG boards.

"These changes make sense and it's a positive way of moving forward," she added.

CRIME

Secure your vehicles

POLICE are urging motorists to ensure their cars are always left secure after a string of arrests as part of a crackdown on vehicle thefts.

As part of the Stay Safe This Spring campaign, officers are focusing on targeting car crooks. Police say in many cases people are leaving their cars unlocked, making them easy targets for car thieves.

HOW NEW CLINICAL COMMISSIONING GROUPS (CCGs) WILL WORK

The new CCGs will plan and purchase hospital, mental health and community services, including:

- Urgent and emergency care, including A&E and ambulance services
- Out of hours GPs
- Planned hospital care
- Community health, such as district nurses, rehabilitation, occupational therapy, speech

therapy, continence services

- Maternity and newborn services, excluding neonatal intensive care
- Children's mental and physical health
- For people with learning disabilities
- Infertility
- Medicines prescribed by GPs, or other NHS practitioners

KCC will be responsible for 23 public health functions, including:

- Drug and alcohol services
- Obesity and weight reduction
- Breastfeeding
- Sexual health services
- Excess winter deaths
- Tobacco control and smoking cessation
- Increasing levels of physical activity.



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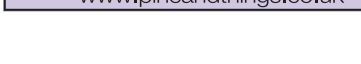
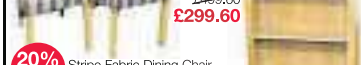
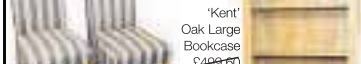


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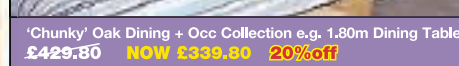


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News

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EVENT

A dazzling turnout at light show

MORE than 100 pupils, parents, grandparents and teachers from Eastchurch Primary School took part in a lantern parade to switch on a new lighting scheme by artist Rob Olins on Leysdown seafront.

It is hoped the lighting – dubbed the Leysdown Illuminations – will form an integral part of the Leysdown Rose-tinted project, which aims to enhance the area.

Artist Rob Olins said: "It's a very exciting part of the project, finally installing a new lighting scheme for Leysdown that benefits a traditional seaside village.

"I've had great inspiration working with the local school children and Rolf Williams from the RSPB.

"I hope residents and visitors enjoy the lights for many years to come."



Picture: RICHARD GOODING

CONSERVATION

Improvements for marsh boosted by £500,000 windfall

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

WILDLIFE experts will be meeting soon to decide how best to spend a £500,000 windfall to protect the north Kent marshes.

The money is part of a £7.5 million pot handed out by the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (Defra) and Natural England – the Government's advisory body on the environment.

The money has been awarded to what is generally known as the Greater Thames Marshes Nature Improvement Area (NIA).

NIA is a partnership project led by the Thames Estuary Partnership, the RSPB, Essex County Council, Greening the Gateway Kent and Medway, and the Greater London Authority, and it is supported by Natural England, the Environment Agency, the Forestry

Commission and Defra.

The vast area along the estuary covers more than 50,000 hectares of estuarine and marshland landscape in east London, north Kent and south Essex.

It is one of 12 partnership projects which successfully bid for a share of the cash.

A spokesman for the RSPB told KoS: "There are individual areas of the marshes, farmland and nature reserves that need joining up.

"At the moment there are loads of people managing little pockets of land for wildlife.

"What we need to do is ensure these are linked so wildlife can move from one to the other.

"We will be working with farmers, wildlife trusts and councils to make a more cohesive landscape rather than just little pockets.

"Currently everyone is doing their own thing and we need to coordinate it."

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EDUCATION

Academy head leading trip to set up school for thousands of children at Syrian refugee camp

By Chris Murphy

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

A HEADTEACHER is setting off for a packed refugee camp in Kurdistan which is battling to care for thousands of Syrian school children displaced by the violent uprising.

People are flooding over the border to safety every day, and the resulting human misery has left the youngsters with no schooling.

Now Andy Somers, executive head of Hartsdown Academy and Cliftonville Primary, is heading a vital educational mercy mission to set up a new school using 14 donated marquees.

Mr Somers, from Broadstairs, told this newspaper: "This is an important mission because all the children in the camp have had no schooling for two years or more.

"The conditions mean we need to build them a school as quickly as possible. We know there are up to 70 Syrian teachers there who need a system put in to place. There are literally thousands of children who need a school."

They are gathered together at the sprawling Domiz refugee camp in the desert on the border with Syria.

He said: "The children need our support, their plight is pretty desperate, and our aim is to make sure they have the right to education.

"They have been made homeless through no



SCHOOL BUILDER: Hartsdown Academy's Andy Somers will be bringing education to young refugees



fault of their own and I believe we have a moral and ethical duty to help them have daily education in a structured programme. At the moment they have very little."

Mr Somers added: "With thousands of Syrian refugees arriving every day, the Kurdistan regional government is worried about the vast

numbers of children who have no schooling."

The 10-day project starts this week. Going with him will be a vast help package, Mr Somers explained: "Three containers are arriving, packed with 14 marquees, tables, desks, chairs, and flooring. The director of education, Hiwa Faridon Jwanrowi, and a team of labourers, will

construct the tents into a campus for an estimated 6,000 kindergarten, primary, secondary and sixth form school children."

He told us: "Although the school will be a series of tents, this is only the beginning and we hope in time a proper bricks and mortar school will be built."

Cilel Smith is the project leader and acts as a link between the UK and Kurdistan in relation to the Domiz camp.

One venture developed by her and Hartsdown is the My New School and My New Life board game that helps integrate children who speak little or no English into the education system in the UK. It was recently supported by education minister Michael Gove on a visit to the school and has been presented to the Kurdistan regional government, which now wants it integrated at the refugee camp school.

Mr Somers said: "It all happened so quickly. I was contacted by the minister for education and culture from the Kurdistan government.

"They had seen the pictures of Mr Gove at the school, and had looked at his blog. I was invited to the Kurdistan embassy in London to visit him and his assistant with the co-writer of the packs, Cilel Smith.

"Cilel and I demonstrated the games and they loved them. As a result they are flying us out to help set up a school in the refugee camp."

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LOTTERY

Best friends celebrate EuroMillions win

TWO best friends from Dartford were popping Champagne corks this week after scooping £336,277 in the EuroMillions lottery draw.

And they are thanking their lucky stars after being prompted into buying a ticket when a horoscope predicted success.

Carly Wiggett, 23, and Becky Witt, 24, who have been best friends since secondary school and are both now police community support officers, claimed their prize in last Friday's draw.

The windfall came about after Miss Wiggett's mother read the duo's stars in a horoscope, which suggested they could be in for a win if they played together.

Miss Wiggett said: "When my mum told me about the horoscope we both thought it was a bit of fun and said 'why not?'."

"We chose one line with important dates and another made up of numbers that came into our heads."

They matched five numbers with one 'lucky star' securing them the pay-out.

Miss Wiggett added: "Since we met at secondary school we have shared everything, from holidays, college life and now even our careers, we are so close."

"To win EuroMillions with your best friend couldn't be better. Becky is my lucky charm, last time I won anything was £500 on bingo when we were on holiday."

The winning numbers were 12, 27, 32, 34, 49, and the lucky stars were 8 and 9.



TRANSPORT

Anniversary of the report that changed the face of railways

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

FIFTY years ago this week, a report by a then-relatively unknown civil servant from the Isle of Sheppey was published – and it changed the British transport network forever.

Dr Richard Beeching has since become notorious for spelling the end for thousands of railway stations and hundreds of branch lines.

In 1963 railways reached almost every part of the country and even remote areas had stations. But the report recommended taking an axe to about a third of the network – 5,000 miles of track, hundreds of branch lines, 2,363 stations and tens of thousands of jobs.

Dr Beeching, who later lived in Maidstone, where he had attended school as a boy, actually trained as a physicist and had no experience of railways. He had been recruited by the Government to make the railways

profitable as the industry was losing millions a year. His solution was to close down the parts that lost the money.

The report, The Reshaping of British Railways, was put into effect over the next few years and saw track uprooted and stations left to crumble.

The major casualty in Kent was the Cuckoo Line – named after a traditional spring fair held near Groombridge – which linked Tunbridge Wells with stations in Sussex, although parts of it have subsequently reopened as a heritage line.

The county has other disused lines. Folkestone and Canterbury used to be linked via the Elham Valley. Services ran on Sheppey from Queenborough to Leysdown, and Ashford was connected with Lydd. However, none of these closures were due to the report.

"I suppose I'll always be looked upon as the axe man," said Dr Beeching. "But it was surgery, not mad chopping."



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Suffolk Coast
Fri 31 May, 2013
Quote PF5-KOS

Join us as we celebrate the post war and baby boomer decades - for over 40s only - at Pontins Pakefield. Enjoy a 99p Bar every night, and great variety entertainment including 50s & 60s tribute bands, fancy dress party and a host of nostalgic fun.

What clients said about our last Private Party Break at Pontins Pakefield

We have just returned from 60s weekend at Pontins, Pakefield (3 x couples). We had an excellent time and couldn't fault anything - even the snow! We had great fun at the quizzes with Maria and the entertainment was brilliant. We have booked again for the November break, Dirty Dancing. The break far exceeded our expectations. Thank you so much

Barbara Freeman

M & SUPER 70s MAMMA MIA SEASIDE PARTY

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Suffolk Coast
Fri 28 Jun, 2013
Quote MM6-KOS

We're taking a trip down memory lane at Pontins Pakefield with a 99p Bar every night, and great variety entertainment including a Mamma Mia movie screening, Abba and 70s tribute bands, a fancy dress party and a host of nostalgic fun.

Pontins Pakefield Holiday Village is situated on the Suffolk coast near Lowestoft. Good News Holidays is booking the whole resort again to bring you these great value themed party breaks for over 40s ONLY. Enjoy entertainment every night and day, PLUS a choice of bars and eateries, an indoor swimming pool, snooker, pool, darts, short mat bowls, 9-hole pitch & putt, tennis court and more. Breakfasts & dinners are included in the self service cafeteria restaurant. All chalets have TV, tea/coffee making facilities, heating, double glazing, en suite bath/shower & toilet, bed linen & towels.

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Fri 4 Oct, 2013
Quote PL10-KOS

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Hayling Island
Fri 22 Nov, 2013
Quote MR11-KOS

We had a great Christmas Party at Mill Rythe resort on Hayling Island in 2012, so we're doing it all again with great variety entertainment including a Grease movie screening and tribute show, Bee Gees & 70s hits with a tribute to Staying Alive, a fancy dress party and a host of nostalgic fun from quizzes to films. Plus there's a £1.50 Bar from 6pm to midnight every night, and the Good News Holidays team onsite.

INCLUDED: £1.50 drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners

M & SUPER 70s MAMMA MIA CHRISTMAS PARTY

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Isle of Wight
Fri 29 Nov, 2013
Quote NO11-KOS

Great Entertainment, Free Drinks, Free Car Ferry and a super location make Warner's Norton Grange resort, at Yarmouth Isle of Wight, our most popular Christmas Party venue ever. This Christmas we're featuring a Mamma Mia movie screening, Abba and 70s tribute bands, a fancy dress party and a host of festive and nostalgic fun from quizzes to films. Plus there's a Free Bar from 6pm to midnight every night.

INCLUDED: Free drinks from 6pm to midnight every night - house beers & spirits, wine by the glass, pumped soft drinks & mixers • Full entertainment programme • 3 nights en-suite chalet accommodation - upgrades available • 3 breakfasts & 3 dinners • Return car ferry worth £45

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Escorted Break by Rail, 5 days £639, 18 April 2013 - Quote MT4-KOS

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Pau Historic Grand Prix & Paris

Escorted Break by Rail, 5 days £749, 9 May 2013 - Quote HGS-KOS

Pau is home to the oldest city racing circuit in the world and scene of the first grand prix, in 1901. Located in the French region of Gascony, with views of the Pyrenees, this elegant town will host the fourth Grand Prix de Pau Historique this May - rated as one of the best historic meetings in the world. With a private champagne check-in at London St Pancras, swift rail travel and a night in Paris this unique break is not to be missed.

Monaco Grand Prix Experience & Portofino

Escorted Holiday by Rail, 8 days, semi-all-inclusive, £899, 17 May 2013 - Quote GP5-KOS

Experience the glitz and glamour of Monaco at Grand Prix time and Italy's Portofino. The holiday begins with a Champagne check-in at London St Pancras, and the hospitality continues with free drinks every night at your hotel in Diano Marina on the Italy's Mediterranean coast. We include Grandstand tickets for the first practice day worth £65 (the same ticket on race day costs almost £400), with practice sessions for F1, GP2, F3 and Porsche Cup.

KENT REMEMBERED



SALUTE: Designer Philip Gearing's 'arch' will recognise the role Folkestone played during World War One

Memorial to those who took road of no return

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

AN HISTORICAL spotlight will illuminate the important role played by Folkestone during World War One when the centenary of the outbreak of hostilities against the Kaiser's Germany is commemorated next year.

The seaside town is one of three places to be named by Prime Minister David Cameron as pivotal to remembering the millions of men who fought on the Western Front and elsewhere in the first truly global conflict.

Road of Remembrance in Folkestone was where soldiers who arrived by lorry and train marched down to the troopships which took many on what would be their last-ever journey to the mud, blood and slaughter of the trenches.

A new memorial is due to be created for the lost generation, with the design set to be a stainless steel arch at the top of the hill leading to the harbour, close to the site of the town's existing war memorial.

Expected to cost around £500,000, it is intended to be in place by August 4, 2014 – a century since the war started when the alliance of Britain, France

and Russia found itself at war with Germany, the Ottoman (Turkish) Empire and the Austro-Hungarian Empire, a conflict sparked by the shooting of an Austrian nobleman in Sarajevo.

Designer Philip Gearing has put together plans for the arch, which have been given the go-ahead from Shepway councillors.

"The shape will mirror that found in cathedrals, temples and mosques, which is appropriate when you consider the many different nationalities of people who found themselves fighting in northern France and Belgium, said Mr Gearing.

"It will take around three months to build and we intend to put in place electronics so that those standing under it will see lights above them, representing thousands of men who died.

"We are looking into the possibility of holographic images as well, maybe soldiers marching through looking like ghosts."

Another plan is for a sculpture of an infantry-

man gazing across the English Channel.

Mr Gearing said: "Making it from resin would enable it to be lit – we'd have a ghostly sentry forever looking out across the water."

A campaign called Step Short – named after the order soldiers were given when marching down the steep hill to Folkestone Harbour – is co-ordinating the local part of the commemoration campaign. Its wider focus is on the start of the war, the commencement of the Battle of the Somme on July 1, 1916, and the day the guns fell silent, November 11, 1918.

The bloody battle of Passchendaele in Belgium, the naval battle of Jutland, off the coast of Denmark, together with failed Allied landings at Gallipoli in Turkey will also be marked.

It is estimated 10 million service personnel left Folkestone throughout the four years of the conflict. Further estimates put the number who came back at around eight million, although both figures are impossible to verify.

However, it is known that not a single person was lost on the crossing – something today any army or navy would consider a remarkable achievement.

The commemorations will also focus on the fact Europe is now at peace.

When Mr Cameron launched the remembrance project he explained what he thought was the most poignant message left from the war, amidst the many poems and songs.

He quoted an inscription on a memorial in Gallipoli, erected by the Turks, but addressed to the British, Australians and New Zealanders who died there.

It reads: "Those heroes who shed their blood and lost their lives, you are now lying in the soil of a friendly country. Therefore, rest in peace.

"There is no difference between the Johnnies and the Mehments to us, where they lie, side by side, in this country of ours.

"You, the mothers, who sent their sons from far away countries, wipe away your tears.

"Your sons are now lying in our bosom and are in peace.

"After having lost their lives on this land, they shall become our sons as well."



HEROES: Millions of soldiers left from Folkestone

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Comment & Opinion

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OPINION

Happy Easter to one and to all

The Rt Reverend Trevor Willmott, Bishop of Dover, calls for everyone to be proud of the wonders of faith and to share in God's message of love

HAVE you ever felt lonely or afraid? Have you ever been betrayed? Have you ever paid the cost of loving someone?

"Heart-breaking" was the description used by the Prince of Wales on his recent trip to meet some of the thousands of refugees who have fled the escalating violence in Syria.

"No child should ever experience what they have," remarked Samantha Cameron this week, when she visited a refugee camp in Lebanon and was visibly moved by the children's accounts of the appalling scenes they have witnessed in Syria, the fear and loneliness they feel.

Closer to home we have all been shocked by the failures of basic care and compassion that have come to light following the Mid-Staffordshire NHS report.

When four separate regulators missed 50 separate warn-

ing signs about the trust between 2001-2009, it is little wonder that patients and the families of patients who received such poor care, feel betrayed by a system set up to protect people when they are at their most vulnerable.

Over recent months in Kent, the poor weather has led to an increase in road traffic accidents, some of which have tragically claimed the lives of our children and young people.

All of us who have loved and lost someone will understand the pain and grief each one of these families must be feeling at this time – my heart goes out to every one of you who is hurting in this way.

Through our own suffering we can imagine the pain of the events of Holy Week as Jesus made his final journey into Jerusalem.

We can imagine the treach-

ery Jesus must have felt as Judas betrayed him and as the crowd called for him to be crucified.

We can picture the fear and loneliness of the disciples who, crushed and broken, pondered a life without their Lord.

We can feel the grief of Jesus' mother Mary, on hearing the news of her son's death.

Jesus' final journey takes the message of sacrifice, of love, of its cost and intention, to the very heart of the people of God. Jesus dying on the cross and rising again, speaks of God's infinite love for each one of us.

Love that God gives at the great cost of sacrificing his one beloved son. Love that is given freely to each of us, even when we spurn God.

This Easter message of hope and love must be the greatest message of all.

It is a message for each and every one of us, so it disconcerts



6699

Love is given freely to each of us, even when we spurn God

me when those who fear that the Easter message will offend, substitute a Happy Spring greeting for a Happy Easter message on seasonal cards or supermarket bill boards.

I am worried too when the Easter message is privatised by Christians who wish to keep the message as their possession and in doing so lose its very purpose.

Christ died and rose again for the whole world. He has risen so that you and I might belong fully to God. We are all agents in God's world and each one of us has a role to play to help everyone hear that wonderful Easter message.

So this Easter, I send my prayers and blessings to all of you. May Christ be risen in you and may Christ be risen through you so those who are grieving, those who are betrayed and those who are lonely and afraid, will know God's love.

KOS COMMENT

Give the public back its voice over train debacle

THE word farce has been used many times to describe the rail situation in our county, but this latest development has got to top it all.

Say the word Southeastern to many commuters, and their initial knee-jerk reaction is, more often than not, unsuitable to repeat in a family newspaper.

Yet this week, Whitehall signalled it could continue to run our trains for another five years. Without challenge or consultation with the customer.

Surely this defies the principle of an open and free market franchise arrangement? A market established to empower the customer and be underpinned by consistent quality?

The system is failing.

Our poor timekeeping

AS A regular reader of this newspaper, you will be used to us bringing you all the biggest news first. Last week, we got a little ahead of ourselves when it came to reminding you all to turn your clocks forward. Unfortunately, a graphic we planned to use this weekend appeared last week instead. We're sorry for any confusion.

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Where do we draw the line?

FOXES were on this planet long before humans.

They have been made to adapt and move into such confined spaces due to the human population forever increasing, now their habitat has been threatened.

They have little option but to encroach on human space in order to fend for their lives.

Give them some sympathy.

People have their opinion as to whether they like foxes or not, but that doesn't give us the right to destroy them.

If that were the case where would we draw the line? They have just as much right, if not more, to be on this planet.

Instead we should appreciate we still have some form of wildlife and embrace it.

When our children ask what a fox looks like, let's be able to show them in reality, rather than from a picture book, as

I'm afraid that's where things are heading.

Karen Black, Herne Bay

In a flap about furry 'friends'

ISABEL Kember's ridiculous comments on my letter regarding the alleged fox attacks on babies proved my point.

Such incidents are being exploited by those who want the Hunting Act repealed and are typical of someone who supports or indulges in animal abuse.

When I read her letter I had to check the date of your paper in case I had time-travelled and it was already April 1.

Who is she trying to fool when she warned me that foxes could enter my house through my cat flap?

Foxes are far too big and are terrified of humans.

Of course, foxes belong in the country, but they are forced to come into towns for

food because their natural habitat is being eroded by housing and roads being constructed for the rapidly expanding human population.

I, and several of my neighbours, feed the foxes as these poor creatures can't get enough food, which can then lead to mange and be passed on to domestic pets.

This is not ignorance, but compassion, of which Ms Kember seems greatly lacking.

Of course, these wild animals are not pets, as one reader commented on, but neither are the garden birds, yet people are encouraged to feed them.

Ms Kember instanced the chickens killed by a fox in her father's coop when she was a child. These chickens should have had greater protection from predators, but were most likely destined for the human dinner table anyway.

Foxes are hunted as a cruel blood sport, not to keep down numbers.

Vivien Clifford, by email

Barbaric way to solve issue

EVEN though I said the fox was clever, I totally disagree with fox-hunting.

Hunting one animal with a pack of hounds is barbaric.

Care needs to be taken where foxes are concerned. If one becomes a pest, yes, put it down; you don't need a pack of hounds to do that.

The main reason a fox can become a pest to humans is the fault of humans.

If we followed the way some humans behave there would be no animals left in the world.

Adrian Ottley, Birchington

Share space or stay away

PRESUMABLY Terry Hudson thinks he is fighting the case for all drivers when he rails against the shared space area in Ashford, but once again he

doesn't speak for me.

Perhaps he would have preferred it if the council had made Ashford entirely pedestrianised? Then (in pretty much his words) pedestrians who don't wish to use the pavements, children who want to treat such areas as playgrounds and cyclists who want to be able to do what they like, could vie with each other for the space, without having to concern themselves with drivers at all.

Instead of criticising the council he should embrace what it is trying to do, as the majority of drivers have done.

All it requires is that drivers exercise caution when driving in such areas, with 'reasonable consideration for other road users' as is required by law.

However, as his letter suggests, he is unable to do that. He should make the same decision as a previous correspondent, David Harris, has done, because drivers who have the dangerous attitude they shouldn't have to share

space with any other road user should stay well away.

Christopher Hudson-Gool, Maidstone

Snow joke for County Hall

EARLIER this month there was yet again inadequate attention to snow on Kent roads.

There were good advance forecasts of the snow to come yet despite this, and with only a few centimetres of snow, many roads were impassable or unsafe for a day or more.

Earlier this year, Kent County Council congratulated itself on a job well done following a snowfall.

This occasion was preceded by warm weather and only briefly the temperature dropped below zero.

A few years ago, KCC took the decision to invest millions in a fleet of foreign-made snow clearance machines and gritters. I feel this investment has not yet been properly put to its intended use.

Simon Rawlins, Broadstairs

Cuts penalise our poorest

IF THE Coalition is serious about ending poverty, increasing employment and improving services, then it needs to increase taxes upon the wealthiest groups in society and corporations.

Kent County Council must play a part by helping to reduce poverty.

Useful measures should include: using empty homes, long-term empty shop fronts and derelict shops in industrial estates for social housing; reducing class sizes and expanding services to the young and elderly; employing enough staff to meet the needs of the vulnerable and poor; reintroducing the community programme, to provide employment and training to the long-term unemployed; stepping up all schemes to improve energy efficiency in homes; and better support for forming cooperatives as new businesses throughout Kent.

Government policy has forced KCC into £94 million of cuts, threatening services. With more planned, local government is being reduced to a hollow shell to protect tax cuts for the wealthiest.

Steve Dawe, Kent Green Party

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ABBY is a passionate sexy girl seeking some fun times. Tel: 0905 002 1956 Box No: 373603

JACQUELINE 82, widow, car driver, not slim, ugly or neurotic, seeks interesting, caring gent, 70 plus for talk and company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403659

ANNA very lonely divorced single mum with lots of love to give seeks similar caring male who also wants to find the right person, any age/looks. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403481

LISA 39yr old tall slim blonde with GSOH and a wicked sense of humour, employed, OHAC, looking for similar male who enjoys life as much as I do. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403391

BEV very attractive lady who loves cosy nights in, seeks caring man who can put the spring back in my step and twinkle back in my eye, call me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403353

SHAY 39 looking for fun loving male to brighten up my world! There must be someone out there prepared to take on a feisty attractive professional with OHAC, money in the bank and a great body! Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403341

CAROL, discreet, married, 47yrs seeks man for fun times. Tel: 0905 002 1957 Box No: 400499

FEMALE young 60, petite, outgoing, sociable, looking for someone special to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403423

JACQUELINE widow, 82, easy-going, not ugly or neurotic, good listener, caring, lady, seeks gent, 60-80 for conversation, company and outings. Sevenoaks, car driver. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403397

SHARON 37yr old size 10 attractive feminine blonde, divorced with OHAC, seeks nice male who like me is fed up with being on their own. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403351

KATHY genuine good/young looking lovely female, fit with good figure, seeking man to fall in love with, enjoy adult companionship and happy times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403349

VICKY petite size 16, attractive, caring, genuine and very much single, likes varied interests, WLTm kind genuine N/S male 40-55yrs for dates hopefully more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403343

LOUISE blue eyed pretty brunette, size 12, OHAC, professional, enjoys good conversation, looking for someone to make me happy again. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403335

DIVORCED female, 66, blue eyes, 5ft 4ins, medium build, blonde hair, seeks male, 65-75 for friendship/companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403275

21YR old slim figured female, no ties, looking for male 30-45yrs for non committed relationship, discretion assured. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402761

CHRIS petite attractive brunette, enjoys social drinks, meals out, theatre, seeks hardworking professional male looking for adult attention too. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402759

5FT female, brown hair, 39, single mum, seeks caring, dedicated guy. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397915

JOYCE 82, widow, seeking man who is fun loving and good humoured for meals out, 60-70's. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393067

NICKY 45, 5ft 2ins, blue eyes, blonde hair, looking for genuine male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 389774

COUNTRY loving outgoing female, blue eyes, 5ft 2ins, genuine, caring, intelligent, seeks honourable, smart, professional male, 68-75 to share laughter and companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392899

SINGLE mum, new to Canterbury, 37, attractive, blonde, seeking soul mate, preferably with car. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397751

LYN happy, young looking 72yr old, seeking interesting man, 65 plus to enjoy life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403101

LADY 57, away with the fairies, looking for her wizard and enchantment. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403093

59YR old Kent lady, bubbly, large build, dog lover, easy-going, GSOH, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403071

JAYNE 44 bored, underappreciated pretty blue eyed intelligent lady seeking fun and interesting professional in similar situation to me for discreet fun times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403011

CLAIRE looking for adventurous male to live life to the max and enjoy adult fun times with. Go on give me a call. Any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402993

GILL 41, shy, lonely single country loving female with no ties, OHAC WLTm N/S genuine, confident male companion for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402799

AMANDA 36yr old single female, blue eyes, curvy, really pretty with lovely smile, loves music, nights out, WLTm loving male for dates and hopeful ltr. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402787

SHIRLEY 32 attractive nurse, enjoys good food/wine, keeping fit, looking good, searching for non committed relations with mature well-dressed man. Any age/looks/status. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402779

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LIZ blonde blue eyed curvy female, considered attractive, tactile, sensual, enjoys music, entertaining, nice people, seeking well educated professional 50-60yrs. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402773

JO 29 tall slim female who loves soaps, animals, shopping, being a mum and am looking for 40's male with GSOH who will appreciate a tactile, loving female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402765

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065

LISA 5ft 2ins, 43, average build plus a few pounds, blonde hair, blue eyes, looking for man for dates. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401421

60YR old black female, sociable, seeks romantic, articulate white male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402523

REBECCA kind, caring, honest, lonely, seeking older gent to wine and dine me. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402273

JAN 54, petite, seeks male, 48-58 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394382

CAROLINE 60, 5ft 2ins, likes animals, walks, travel, gardening, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402067

DANCE partner sought by lady beginner in ballroom and Latin American dancing, ideally 55 plus, to visit local dances for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401333

47YR old female, fun loving, green eyes, likes most things, seeks N/S male, 47-52 with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401287

LINDA young 62, smoker, seeking gent, 55-65 for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400521

SINGLE mum, 35, white British, 5ft 2ins, varied interests, looking for male to share life with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 400329

INTERESTING attractive, uncomplicated, intelligent lady, many interests, seeks honourable, kind gent, 68-75 for long term companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392211

FEMALE seeks Prince Charming, 20-30 to sweep her off her feet. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392891

BLACK African lady, late 30's, no ties, likes country walks, gardening, cinema, seaside, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173

DEBBIE 50, seeking man, 60 plus with GSOH for fun nights out and cosy nights in. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398173

MARGARET 57, looking for male companionship with GSOH for nights out, friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390248

MARY 62, fun loving, enjoy most things, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, green eyes, size 14, lives alone in country, seeks male for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 385189

MIRANDA early 60's, sociable, friendly, seeking similar N/S solvent, presentable, easygoing male with GSOH. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394843

HAPPY young looking 71yr old female, likes life, fit, active, seeks male, 60 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 393065

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PRETTY petite lady sought by older, professional businessman, looking for LTR and loyalty. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394530

SALVATORE 68, N/S, widow, Italian, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402481

KEVIN 49, single dad, employed, good cook/laugh, seeks female for fun and good times. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402405

CHRIS 58, 5ft 9ins, 13st, frustrated widower, likes country/western music, real life, gardening, cruises, looking for companionship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402271

EDDIE African male, seeking female, 20-40 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394354

BLACK male, 50, bubbly personality, seeks buxom, pear shaped, rubinesque white female, 25-55 for friendship, possibly LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402887

70YRS young male, good looking, GSOH, seeking lady for love and affection. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403455

EASY-GOING guy, medium build, likes outdoors, DIY, seeking slim, N/S guy for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403267

MICHELLE petite fun female, outgoing, enjoys holiday abroad, OHAC and pretty self-sufficient, looking for someone to share a LTR with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399515

SENSUAL female looking to enjoy life a little more, seeking likeminded male to enjoy interesting conversations over dinner, hopefully furthering our experience. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399195

BLACK beautiful female, 5ft 7ins, likes most things in life, seeks special male for companionship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398391

SANDRA outgoing 53, carer, seeks male for friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 390230

48YR old female, kind, loving, caring, genuine, fun loving, loves music, singing, theatre, holidays, seeks male. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 387797

FEMALE looking for male for friendship and romance. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 392365

DEBBIE 47, single parent, likes motorsport, seeking male with similar interests. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398127

YOUNG looking lady, late 50's, medium build, caring, intelligent, seeks kind, caring, intelligent man with GSOH of similar age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 398095

RONALD 65 plus, 5ft 9ins, slim, sociable, GSOH, tactile, N/S, many interests, seeking lady dance partner to learn ballroom and Latin. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403211

SWANSEA man, 51, 5ft 6ins, slim, seeks slim female for nights in/out, company, walks, talks and maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402033

TED 63, 5ft 7ins, average build, seeks female 55-75 for friendship, possible LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401913

ANDY 36, sexy, fun, come say hello. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402903

BRUCE likes meals out, romantic walks, days out, seeking lady, 40-60 for friendship and fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 403097

TONY 50, likes nights in/out, football, fishing, seeks female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394506

BRIAN fun loving, happy go lucky, likes walks, animals, cuddles, nights in/out, seeking loving, caring female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402729

BLACK British male, African descent, medium build, varied interests, understanding, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402641

ROBERT medium build, single, seeks nice, attractive, busty female with sexy clothes. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402597

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easy-going, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402531

YOUNG mixed race male, seeking female for no strings fun. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402499

AARON 35, no ties, 5ft 9ins, clean shaven, attractive, Italian background, chef, down to earth, open minded, likes meals out, weekends away, socialising, cinema, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402497

5FT 7ins white male, 50, N/S, looking to settle down. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401897

AVERAGE male, 50's, large build, broadminded, OHAC, GSOH, naturist novice, smoker, seeks petite/medium build lady for relationship. Must be uninhibited, broadminded and mature. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401887

PETE 55, good looking, 6ft 2ins, own hair, seeking attractive female, 45-60 for relationship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 394294

GENUINE fun loving guy 55, medium build, blue eyes, seeks genuine lady, 45-57 for fun times, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401761

GRAHAM 52, N/S, likes days out, antique fairs, animals, seeks slim, attractive, N/S lady, 40-50 for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401727

BUILDER 43, tall, good looking, kind, considerate, easygoing, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401595

TALL 64yr old young at heart N/S male, widower, seeking female for friendship, maybe more. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401531

TONY retired, GSOH, likes indoor life, dvds, seeking N/S lady, 65 plus, likes countryside for friendship. West Sussex area. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401481

BARRY 49, 6ft, well built, easygoing, seeks female to wine/dine and have fun times with. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401401

THANET male, smart, young, mid 60's, caring, 5ft 5ins, dark hair, likes travel, countryside, seeks slim, attractive, local soul mate. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401399

CHRIS 51, looking for young female, 25-42, white, slim, N/S for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401395

SEAMUS 5ft 10ins, black hair, green eyes, average build, likes travel, weekends away, animal lover, varied interests, N/S, seeks female. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401279

HANDCUFFS and whips. Male 40's, OHAC, likes most things, slim-medium build female for fun times. Chatham. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401365

PROFESSIONAL male, early 40's, OHAC, likes most things, seeks warm, sincere, fun loving female for LTR. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401361

GENT 49, romantic, caring, reliable, fun, seeks nice lady friend with same attributes, who has also been badly let down. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401353

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STEVEN 63, looking for LTR with man, 59 plus. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402093

BI guy 45, seeking similar bi guy for fun and friendship. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 402093

YVONNE 60, seeks male/female friends for chats, any age. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 397641

MALE early 80's, fit, active, many interests, seeks similar male for friendship and company. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 401621

JACK mature male, Thanet area, seeks friends of either sex, any age for chats. Tel No: 0906 515 7112 Box No: 399455



Women TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. Texts cost £1.50 per message Help Desk: 0844 445 7707

GUYS TEXT FOR FUN. SEND INDP followed by the box number of the person you wish to chat to and send to 66888 (T&C's below)

NATALIE, foreign beauty hopes a nice working man will send her a text. She is home alone. Text INDP 204600 to 66888

SENSITVIE, romantic lady seeks a compassionate man to swap texts with. I have a good ear and happy to listen. Text INDP 205422 to 66888

LINDSEY, available to chat, send her a text. She promises to text everyone back. Text INDP 205034 to 66888

SALLY, student, 20yrs, needs an escape from the boredom. Text INDP 204570 to 66888

NURSE, mid 20's, blonde and curvy is bored. Text her! Text INDP 204698 to 66888

GLAM Gran, mid 50's, home babysitting and would love to chat to you. Text INDP 205100 to 66888

BORED and lonely, home alone all day, give me something to brighten up the lonely hours. Text INDP 205026 to 66888

ASIAN female, wants chats with white man. Interested to learn English ways. Text INDP 204765 to 66888

SINGLE mum, kids at school all day, would love some fun chats. Text INDP 205285 to 66888

JASMINE, exotic beauty, text me what you like and I will text back. Text INDP 204668 to 66888

BIG is keen, cuddly lady seeks skinny men. Call, whatever you look like, how will I know! Text INDP 205069 to 66888

SUE, sporty and fun, why not chat with me. Text INDP 205455 to 66888

Men TEXT FOR FUN!

*see t&c's below. No meetings implied or guaranteed. Texts cost £1.50 per message Help Desk: 0844 445 7707

Inside this week

Food & Drink 43

History is in business as our reviewer enjoys delicious food
Dining Room
 Town can make the most of another new restaurant

Leisure 42-44-46

Racing fun for all the family
 Easter holiday activity listings



Business Week 55-57

Manston
 Airport optimistic of a bright future for Amsterdam service
 Royal seal of approval for creative graduate's efforts

Driving 59-63

Steve Loader takes a look at Toyota's latest RAV4
Review
 Roar of approval for Peugeot's latest hybrid offering

Michaela Strachan's girl-next-door image hides a sharper talent than you might expect

By **DAVE MAIRS**

CAN we talk about the show, please!" Ever so charmingly, ever so politely, but with just a hint of steel, Michaela Strachan is guiding our conversation back to where, in fairness, it should be.

Her show, just so we've established this from the very beginning, is Michaela Strachan's Really Wild Adventures and it brings to the stage her book of the same name.

But that's the trouble with Michaela. There's so much to talk about that it can be difficult to stay on track. Wide Awake Club, The Hitman And Her, The Really Wild Show... all were early peaks in her journey through the jagged landscape of populist TV, while her near-constant grin on Springwatch, Autumnwatch and, latterly, Winterwatch has sparked a belated interest in wildlife in many a lounge-loafing dad, some of whom will presumably be at the Assembly Hall Theatre in Tunbridge Wells next month, when the show drops by.

Further, as her show is about all things natural, it's only right that we establish Michaela does have at least a rudimentary interest in wildlife. It's a question people ask, primarily perhaps because one 'watch' co-presenter, Chris Packham, is so obviously possessed of a vast knowledge (even if, according to Michaela, he does sometimes have to look things up), while the other, Martin Hughes-Games, has a degree in zoology, although admittedly that might not always be so evident.

"I'm very enthusiastic about wildlife," she said. "I know a certain amount. You have to be honest about what you are and I'm not an expert, by any stretch of the imagination."

"But how many women presenters are experts in British wildlife? Men have different brains – they like keeping lists, whether it's cars or football-players or whatever."

"You need the emotional side. My strength is story-telling – I can engage really well with the audience."

The Really Wild Adventures show is based on her book of poems inspired by adventures she had while filming animals. Set to music and getting audience members involved, it is suitable for children aged anything between three and 10, she says.

It offers useful advice such as don't try to out-spit a spitting cobra and asks searching questions such as why do penguins make you smile.

I express a genuine admiration for artistic types such as her who seem to have accomplished so much in so many fields, but she's swift to scotch



A wild one... honestly!

any such deference.

"It has been a long career – 25 years! It hasn't all been crammed into the last couple! And I've had to do all the mundane stuff like answering emails."

And doing media interviews, doubtless.

Anyway, she's happy enough to accept that her time in the limelight has been good to her.

'Trying to force-feed a penguin that doesn't want to be fed is really hard'

"What a weird career, eh! The Hitman And Her was brilliant. I was 22 and being paid to go to a nightclub and have a good laugh. It was such fun – that show was a real slice of life... the music, what people were wearing. I find that very comical – people would wet themselves looking at it now."

She works hard, clearly, and when I spoke to her the day after the Winterwatch series had ended, she had

not long returned to southern England (her mother lives in Surrey), having caught the 7am flight from Inverness.

"I can't believe it's so flipping wintry," she said. "We were praying for snow last week. It was our first live Winterwatch and we all said wouldn't it be great if it snowed."

Even if Scotland had failed to deliver the white stuff on cue, it did seem a bit chilly at times, but that shouldn't have been a problem for the team, given the heat generated by the amount of heavy-duty flirting going on.

Again Michaela is dismissive. "Do you call that flirting?" she snorts scornfully. "Gosh!"

She calms sufficiently to talk about the upbeat atmosphere of the show and the camaraderie between its hosts.

"We have a really good relationship – we really support each other."

It was, though, not always thus. The relationship between former presenters Bill Oddie and Kate Humble was, at best, strained.

"I don't know how they did it," says Michaela. "It's an intense show and the tension is high, particularly when it's live. If we weren't all supporting each other, I wouldn't want to do it."

She lives in Cape Town, South Africa, with her partner Nick and their son Oliver and Nick's three children, so how that tally with all her UK work?

"It seems like I'm here more than I actually am. It's because I live in Cape Town – they try to get the most out of me when I'm here. It's a compromise and it works – I'm a mum for a while. My seven-year old son will be on tour with me... I said I'd pay him £5 per show and he said he'd do it for £10."

Happily, no such financial disputes affect her voluntary efforts in Cape Town, where, among other things, she is involved in a project to rehabilitate abandoned African penguin chicks.

"Trying to force-feed a penguin that doesn't want to be force-fed is really hard work," she says, adding that she only belatedly realised how endangered the species was, having suffered a 90 per cent decline in numbers.

You see, Michaela does know her wildlife... and cares, too.

■ **Michaela Strachan's Really Wild Adventures is at the Assembly Hall Theatre, Tunbridge Wells, on Tuesday, April 9. Visit www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk or phone 01892 530613 for tickets.**

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A long weekend of great activities for the family to enjoy

Greg Miles selects some of the finest events to entertain you all over Easter

It may not feel like it, but spring is technically here and the Easter holidays are upon us, which means there are plenty of activities on offer around the county.

This weekend alone, there are some big attractions taking place in Kent, where temperatures are predicted to soar to a positively balmy 5°C, while many others continue into the week to keep children entertained during their holidays.

Top sporting action also takes place over the weekend, with European Rallycross coming to Lydden Hill and the British Touring Car Championship at Brands Hatch, while on Monday Gillingham's footballers host Rotherham United as they charge towards promotion. See the sports pages for more information about these.

Medway Steam & Transport Festival

SAVOUR the specialist vehicles on display and take in folk and blues music at the indoor arena. Plenty of local food and drink is available, while children will be kept busy with close-up animal encounters, shire-horse rides, land-train rides and parades of steam vehicles.

When: Sunday, March 31-Monday, April 1

Where: Chatham Historic Dockyard

Opening times: 10am-6pm.

Tickets: Adults £13.50, concessions £11, children £8.50, family £36.50

Children's fun at Dover Castle

A FUN-packed day for children of all ages. Get stuck into junior jousting, hands on with knights training and rough-and-tumbling through the assault course. Enjoy a fire show and children's theatre and learn about music through the ages.

When: Saturday, March 30-Monday, April 1

Where: Dover Castle

Opening times: 10am-5pm

Tickets: Adults £17, concessions £15.30, children aged 5-15 £10.20, family £44.20

Hop Farm opens its doors

FREE attractions including the popular outdoor play area and animal farm. There are further attractions to enjoy on a 'pay-and-play' basis, including the 4D cinema, puppet show, bumper boats, bouncy castles and magic factory.

When: Friday, March 29-Sunday, April 14

Where: Hop Farm Family Park

Opening times: 10am-4pm

Tickets: Free (excluding some events)

Whitstable Harbour Village

ENJOY Punch and Judy at 11am on Saturday and shows from Uncle Myles the Mystery Man. There are also jewellery workshops, an Easter-egg hunt on Sunday, live music on Monday and a painting demonstration from Royal Academy artist Michael Richardson.

When: Saturday, March 30-Monday, April 1

Where: Whitstable harbour

Opening times: 10am-5pm

Tickets: Free

CycloPark Easter activities

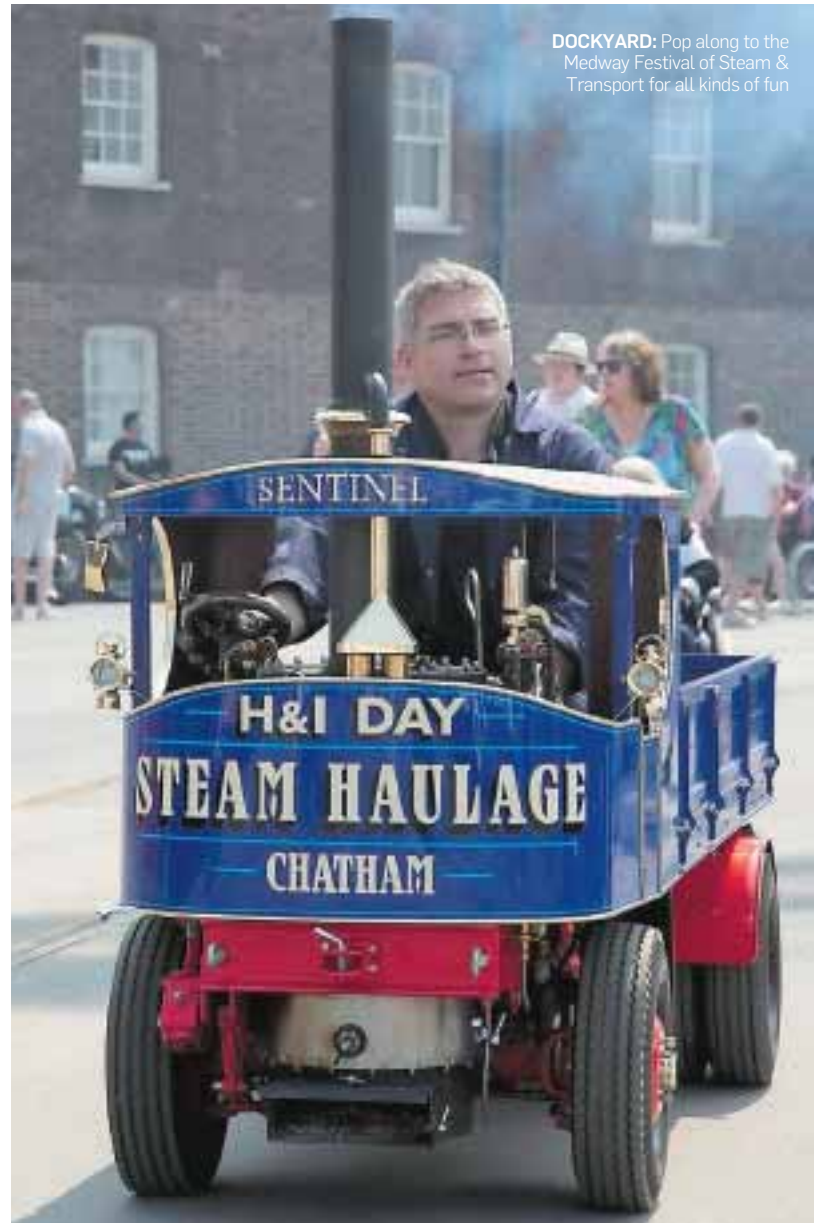
HAVE a go at cycling in a safe environment at the cycling centre. Activities include trialling a new Elliptigo bike, BMX sessions and strider-bike sessions for youngsters. For full times and details, visit www.cyclopark.com or phone 01474 567145.

When: Tuesday to Thursday, April 2-11

Where: CycloPark, Gravesend

Opening times: Various

Tickets: Range from free to £5



DOCKYARD: Pop along to the Medway Festival of Steam & Transport for all kinds of fun



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FOOD & DRINK

Flavours of Kent

To be included on this page, please email
features@kosmedia.co.uk

Helpings of history, a bit of business and a fine venue

Set in the grounds of the historic Howfield Manor, the former chapel of St Gregory's Priory is now a restaurant serving a mixture of French and English cuisine.

The 1181 Restaurant, named after the year it was built, features beautiful open brickwork and a glass-covered well gaping beneath diners' feet... a historian's dream.

It's always a little strange to go through a hotel reception to get to the dining room but even more quirky to be mistakenly registered for the business-networking event being held on the same night. After a nervous laugh we were shown to our seats in a restaurant inhabited by a handful of guests but with room for many more.

The impressive menu and wine list offered an evening set menu of three courses for £25, a modest price for what was available.

We were handed a platter of bread rolls, butter and assortment of snack pieces as appetisers, including Parma ham, cucumber, olives and a gherkin. It was on the house, which is always a nice touch, even if the cost is incorporated in the final bill elsewhere. It's clever.

I started with seared scallops accompanied by a square of baby spinach and Parmesan risotto with a balsamic glaze drizzled down the centre of the plate like a halfway line. The scallops were

RESTAURANT REVIEW



cooked excellently, with no rubber texture, although they could have had a little more flavour added to them. The risotto was light and creamy.

My guest went for the pork terrine served with baby leaves, a red-onion-and-cumin marmalade and toast. It was also delicious – the terrine was rich and melted in your mouth.

The friendly staff, still apologising for almost sending me to business school, were very attentive and brought along my main course of lamb marinated in garlic and rosemary with sauté potatoes and glazed Vichy carrots. The saltiness

of the potatoes, with crisp skin but soft inners, was delicious and complemented the lamb. The meat was cooked well, with no hint of dryness, but could have benefited from a slightly stronger flavour from the marinade.

My guest went for the grill menu and the rib-eye steak, having to add only a £4 supplement to the bill. Again it was cooked perfectly. There was no fat on the moderate piece of beef and it was served with sauté potatoes, salad and a rich and spicy peppercorn sauce.

The desserts topped off a very good meal and I opted for the chocolate fondant with cream. It was warm and rich but not too filling.

My guest went for a trio of small *crème brûlées*, each with its own flavour – vanilla, lavender and original – which was a real personal touch.

There was no service charge and the total price, including drinks, came out at an excellent £62. OK, there was no music and the atmosphere was a little underwhelming, but I really liked this quaint eatery. It has an individual style and the food is good. I'm sure with a little push, 1181 will make history of its own.

Joe Bill

■ 1181, Howfield Manor, Chartham Hatch
CT4 7HQ (telephone 01227 733892;
website www.howfieldcanterbury.co.uk)

Railway's Carriage looking for a move

BOUTIQUE Faversham restaurant The Carriage will close its doors this weekend due to its public-house venue changing hands.

Based in the restaurant of The Railway Hotel, The Carriage has received excellent reviews in recent months and head chef Clare Brown has said she will be looking to take The Carriage on to somewhere new.

On social-networking site Twitter, Brown said: "Sadly The Railway is changing hands and unfortunately The Carriage restaurant will have to close. This doesn't mean the end of The Carriage... we will keep you posted on our next venture!" For more information, you can visit www.railwayhotelfaversham.co.uk.

Tankerton adds to its restaurant offering

THE Tankerton dining scene has been enhanced by the opening of the East Coast Dining Room.

Replacing the De La Cote, which had been in the town for a number of years, the East Coast Dining Room will be serving lunches and evening meals.

The new venue is owned by Hamish Stewart, previously the landlord at the popular Anchor Inn in Abbey Street, Faversham, as well as the renowned Three Mariners at Oare.

This is one of a number of modern restaurants popping up on the Tankerton Circus shopping parade; it includes Mucini, the traditional Italian kitchen at the far end of the strip.

The Marquis

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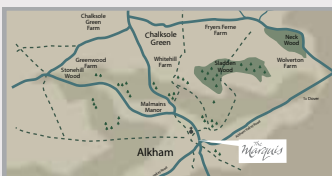
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features@kosmedia.co.uk**Motley crew
to share the
experience of
storytelling**

RYTHMIC Indian storytelling is set to light up the Tom Thumb Theatre in Margate.

Pandavani 108, a motley crew of storytellers, will combine seven epics with song and stick-wielding to make for a genuinely unusual night at the small theatre on Saturday, April 12.

Dominic Kelly, Jo Blake Cave, Ben Haggarty, Emily Parrish, Laura Burns and Cat Gerrard will perform at the ScandalNight, a monthly storytelling club for grown-ups.

With just 50 seats available, all those interested are urged to book in advance.

Tickets are priced at £6; for more information, visit www.wegotickets.com or www.tomthumbtheatre.co.uk, or phone 01843 221791.

The show starts at 7.30pm.

**OMD comeback trail brings the
electro-poppers to Margate****By Greg Miles**greg.miles@archant.co.uk

THEY have been on the comeback trail for more than seven years, but Orchestral Manoeuvres In The Dark insist they aren't just out to top up their retirement fund ahead of their Margate date in April.

Formed in 1978, the new-wave group from the Wirral rose to fame with their fourth single, Enola Gay, in 1980 and went on to amass a string of hit singles and worldwide popularity with their third album, Architecture & Morality, before a hiatus that lasted from 1996 to 2005. They are about to release their second album since their return.

Founder Andy McCluskey is keen to dispel any talk that they are back just to cash in on the rejuvenated electro-pop scene and retro fashions currently doing the rounds.

"If you're going to do it, you have to do it properly. We're not just a band of old pensioners trying to top up our retirement fund," he said. "We are serious about this. We expect to deliver a powerful show."

"I had intended to have some dig-



Picture: THOMAS OXLEY PHOTOGRAPHY

nity in my middle age, but my dancing style is quite idiosyncratic."

McCluskey, 53, feels that they have kept hold of their unique sound from the 80s and haven't grown stale with the new material on their forthcoming album English Electric, to be released on Monday April 8.

"We never could have predicted this would happen to us," he said. "Popular culture is struggling to find anywhere new to go."

"One of the things you can draw a freshness from is doing your own thing. There are still a few musical styles going forward. We have taken

in a few of them for the new album. It's a balancing act of trying to go forward but recognising you have a distinctive sound."

"We didn't want to be a tribute band to ourselves."

McCluskey spent his time away from the band in the late 90s forming and then writing for girl-band Atomic Kitten, including their hit single Whole Again.

Tickets for the gig at The Winter Gardens on Sunday, April 28, are priced at £32.50. To book, visit www.margatewintergardens.co.uk or phone 01843 296111.

ON TOUR:

OMD's Andy McCluskey and Paul Humphreys 'don't want to be a tribute to themselves'

FAB FOUR

Tower Theatre, Shorncliffe
Thursday, April 11, 8.30pm
Phone: 01303 277175

Email: dwoodland05@aol.com

Liane Carroll Trio: Multi-award-winning jazz musician Liane Carroll will be performing with drummer Mark Fletcher and bass-player Roger Carey. Tickets £10.



Dover Museum
Wednesday, April 3, 10am-4pm
Phone: 01304 201066

Email: museumenquiries@dover.gov.uk

Family day: Enjoy a day of Roman mosaic-making for adults and children alike at the town's museum. Entry is free and there is no extra charge for activities.



Hazzlitt Arts Centre, Maidstone
Wednesday, April 10, 8pm
Box office: 01622 758611

Website: www.hazzlittartscentre.co.uk

Marcus Brigstocke: Comedian and broadcaster Marcus Brigstocke is touring with his new show The Brig Society, focused on all things British. Tickets £15.



The Marlowe Theatre, Canterbury
Tuesday, April 2-Saturday, April 20
Box office: 01227 787787

Website: www.marlowetheatre.org.uk

Dirty Dancing: The smash-hit show based on the film comes to the main auditorium. Tickets from £29; evenings 7.30pm, Fridays 5pm and 8.30pm and Saturday matinees 2.30pm.

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Join Caravan and relive Canterbury scene

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

CANTERBURY legends Caravan will be returning to the county this week following their sold-out 40th-anniversary tour.

Caravan were at the forefront of the city's 1970s progressive movement before going on to find national fame. They will be back in Kent on Friday (April 5) for what is set to be a top night at St Mary's Arts Centre in Sandwich.

Caravan were born in 1968 by former Wilde Flowers members David Sinclair, Richard Sinclair, Pye Hastings and Richard Coughlan. The quartet stayed in touch with former band-mates Robert Wyatt, Hugh Hopper and Kevin Ayers,



BACK ON TOUR: Having recently celebrated a couple of 40th anniversaries, Caravan are due to return

who went on to form Soft Machine as Canterbury became a beacon for the psychedelic movement in southern England.

Caravan found their own sound, blending

psychedelic rock and jazz, making them stand out among the crowd in Canterbury at the time. Their second album, *In The Land Of Grey And Pink*, released in 1971, recorded gold-disc suc-

cess and they retained a cult status throughout the dormant years in the 80s and 90s before returning to live performances post-millennium.

To commemorate the 40th anniversary of *In The Land Of Grey And Pink*, Universal released a box set in 2011 and the band followed it with a tour of festivals across Europe that year.

A second 40th anniversary was celebrated earlier this year with a UK tour to commemorate the release of *For Girls Who Grow Plump In The Night*.

Tickets are priced at £22.50 and available from The Admiral Owen, 8 High Street, Sandwich; alternatively, you can phone 01304 617771 or visit www.smugglersrecords.com/events.

Street art that will spark Medway to life

THREE artistic groups have been awarded commissions for Fuse Medway Festival.

In January, the festival's organisers sought ideas for three commission slots, and these have now been allocated.

The successful groups are Medway circus and theatre company Dizzy O'Dare Presents, with its Museum Of Mr E; Rochester's dance artist Rebecca Ashton from the Right Step Dance Company with The

Sirens of Cetham; and ME4 Writers and their Word Shed.

Festival general manager Dawn Archer said: "Fuse is all about local people and artists and celebrating Medway's identity. It's important to us to be involving local performers in a festival which is now considered to be one of the most exciting outdoor arts events in the country."

"The bonus is that the commissions not only allow our local artists to be part of Fuse but

also to develop new ways of working.

"All three commissions will create something very exciting, tailor-made for Fuse, and will spark imaginations throughout the festival."

Each of the three award recipients will provide workshops and other activities in the run-up to the festival, which takes place from Friday to Sunday, June 14-16.

Visit www.fusefestival.org.uk for further information.



TALENT: Dizzy O'Dare Presents is one of the three groups chosen for a commission

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Hamilton and Button

FOR fun that's fast and furious, you can't beat karting. To experience the thrill of real outdoor karting, head for Chatham's Buckmore Park 1,000-metre international floodlit outdoor kart circuit, just off junction 3 of the M2, where British world champions Lewis Hamilton and Jenson Button learnt their trade.

A session at Buckmore, which celebrates its 50th anniversary this year, will be a day to remember.

The popular and exclusive kids' karting parties for ages four to 16 (either 30 minutes or one hour) are available for up to 12 drivers, and parties can incorporate a celebration meal and be combined with laser-warfare games in the woods (ages eight to 16).

For more details about the range of events available, you can phone 01634 201562, visit www.buckmore4kids.co.uk or email sales@buckmore.co.uk.

Women's wartime world
in focus at revival event

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

WOMEN working in factories, ploughing the fields and making jam – the Second World War was not just about guns and tanks, as the War and Peace Revival will show this summer.

In a departure from the perceived norm, the show will be telling the story of the Home Front and how women played a huge part in keeping the country running while men were fighting on the frontline.

The show, which takes place at Folkestone Racecourse in July, will have a Home Front marquee delving into the daily lives of the women at work and, as importantly, of those at home and volunteering in many roles.

It was a time when the Women's Institute came into its own, as it took on a number of tasks, ran make-do-and-mend classes and gave food advice through cookery demonstrations as voluntary representatives of the Ministry of Food. It also ensured that no food was wasted through initiatives such as fruit preservation centres.

Jude Knight, 51, will be heading the demonstration section of the Home Front exhibition.

"It's very much an area that's neglected in historical re-enactment," she said. "There's lots of military stuff and you get the chaps and women in uniform, but there's very little about what the



FORCE: Women played their part in the war

women did at home. The women kept the country ticking over in a number of roles."

The new venue means that this will be the first time the show will have a dedicated area for the Home Front as in the past this has been spread out across the event.

For more on the War and Peace Revival, which takes place from Wednesday to Sunday, July 17-21. Visit www.thewarandpeacerevival.co.uk or phone the box office on 0845 652 62 62 63.

FAB FOUR



The Orchard Theatre, Dartford
Thursday to Saturday, April 4-6
Box office: 01322 220000

Website: www.orchardtheatre.co.uk

Chinese State Circus: Spectacular two-hour show by 30 Chinese artists performing an array of acts, including human juggling and swinging poles. Tickets from £18. Times vary.



Assembly Hall, Tunbridge Wells
Sunday, April 7, 3pm
Box office: 01892 530613

Website: www.assemblyhalltheatre.co.uk

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Homes & Gardens

March winds and April showers bring the promise of May flowers

Hop out into the garden and get sowing, urges our horticultural wizard

GARDENING WITH THE EXPERT

JEREMY SHIRLEY



THE recent spate of publicity relating to processed-meat products has really worried consumers and turned more of a focus on to where food has come from. It's nothing new and is where I come in: growing a wide range of fruit and vegetables for huge monetary savings.

The wholesale (Spitalfields) market price of a small bunch of onions in late January was 22 pence; farm shop or traditional greengrocer prices were around 47p; and the supermarket price was 87p. Beans, mange-tout and spinach from Africa all cost 4p – supermarkets charge around £1. Enough said?

Now is the time for sowing your tomatoes, chillies, peppers, lettuce and, for the coming autumn and winter, vegetables such as red Brussels sprouts, calabrese, leeks and indeed the



humble cabbage, which can be prepared in so many ways and not boiled to death.

Try them shredded and stir-fried, or shredded and used raw for coleslaw, to preserve the full nutritional vitamin value.

You should have started your protected, heated sowings from around March 10: squashes and vegetable spaghetti – yes, you scoop it out

like spaghetti! Cucumbers like Green Fingers and Cuccino grow to just four to six inches and are ideal for lunch boxes. Or try La Diva and Pyralis, as well as Crystal Apple cucumbers.

Two very old tomato varieties for outdoor growing planting after May 20 are Amateur and Outdoor Girl. A southern aspect against a wall or fence is ideal.

From late March, children can sow radish and lettuce outside, but if the weather stays cold April onwards is ideal. Thinly-sown and lightly scratched into the soil, it's as easy as that.

There are so many unusual vegetables to try – Ceylon climbing spinach can be grown in a sunroom or conservatory, also early climbing French beans.

Many vegetables can be sown in cell trays. Save egg cartons as they are ideal to start off climbing peas – those small, tasty French peas.

Surprise your friends with strawbins, which are said to have been first cultivated 400 years ago by German monks. The leaves are used like spinach and in the leaf axils, where the leaf joins the stem, small raspberry-like fruits appear. Sour when pink, leave them to ripen to dark crimson.



FAMILY FUN: With some clever plant choices, even younger children can be inspired to grow

Sweetcorn is a must in our family and my grandchildren Molly and Milly love to grow strawberry popcorn. This is a small red sweetcorn that's perfect for putting in the microwave to make your own tasty popcorn.

Perpetual watercress can be grown on your

Continued on page 48

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Homes & Gardens

Save money on food bills by growing your own

Continued from page 47

kitchen windowsill, as can samphire. It really angers me to see watercress on sale in the supermarkets that has been imported from New Zealand when Hampshire and Surrey have our finest watercress farms.

There is so much choice of foods for you to grow – especially from mail-order specialists who keep seeds in a cold-temperature environment until despatch.

One of the reasons so many folk blame themselves for poor germination is actually down to their having purchased pretty picture packets that have been left displayed in the sun or overheated garden centres.

Inevitably, we should soon be seeing sunny days and the temptation is to purchase those tender bedding-plant seedlings on display every year in the big multiples with brightly-coloured labels. It is nothing new. I well recall Woolworths was notorious for this practice back in the late 1950s.

Kent gardeners could save £20,000, and across the UK considerably more – how?

Do not waste your money and be tempted to buy as soon as the sun shines – no tender plants should be planted outside until after May 20. Across the country with seeds sown and tender plants put out too early, what do people expect? Of course they will struggle in the cold, but shoppers are sadly easily misled by the sudden abundance of tender plants for sale.

As an aside, my son has had the whim to shortly put on the nursery website part of my late father's gardening and weather diary for



SO CLEVER: Grow your own shelter with willows

1950-52. Three inches of snow fell in early May 1950 – he also mentions drought, torrential rain, gales that blew down the trellis fence and unbearable heat waves. Nothing's changed!

But back to the vegetables. When you sow carrots outdoors, do so in rows about 30cm apart. Then sow a central row of spring onions – this will keep the carrot fly pest away. Bulbing exhibition onions work just as well.

Few people know about Siberian onions that

grow like a thick bunch of spring onions. Left in the ground, these can be pulled all year round for garnishing and flavouring salads. But remember to always leave a few as they self-multiply. I also suggest you try the multi-headed perennial everlasting cauliflowers with as many as 30 heads the size of a cricket ball on one plant!

Can't eat them all at once? Just freeze for a later date. This is the ideal time to plant fruit trees, cane fruits and bushes.

I do urge you to support your local nursery. Like many other local shops, some have sadly closed down due to the pressure of the large garden centres.

Never hesitate to ask advice of *bona fide* nursery staff, too, as although they may not have swish overheated showrooms and staff in smart uniforms, jeans, boots or wellies really are the order of the day.

As the old-fashioned butchers and green-grocers are seeing a revival, now is the time for the specialist nurseries to start to reappear.

Where else would you find mulberries, large pomegranates and tamarillo tree tomatoes with large burgundy-red fruits that can be used in salads, juiced for sorbets or as you would prepare an apple or pear crumble? Individual fruits sell for about 90p each in London stores.

You can grow grapefruits, lemons, limes, all citrus fruits and olives in a conservatory. Quince, loquats, sloes and passion fruits are also all easy in the garden.

But beware of the often-obscure advertisements in newspapers and magazine offers for fruit trees, plants and nursery stock.

I test-purchased some blueberries and fruit

trees. The stems of the fruit trees I received were no thicker than a ballpoint pen and about 29cm tall; the blueberries were about 15cm tall and all said to produce copious fruits the first season.

Likewise, bedding plants... 100 plus 60 free for under £10. This is just like some supermarkets selling three oven-ready chickens for £10. A decent-quality English chicken that has real flavour should cost you £10-£12 each.

When buying by mail order, look at Twitter or other opinion-based sites to find out other people's experiences and hopefully avoid wasting your money.

Also, consider the fact that you can grow many of the things you're invited to spend money on: you could grow a garden shed if you took the time to realise the versatility of the willow.

Single-stem willows, say around one and a half metres tall, could in a full growing season reach about three metres tall.

Willow sculpture is fun and you can easily craft a tunnel, a children's wig wam, a garden bench, a chair, a maze and a shed.

Plant about 30 centimetres apart in a single row. Firstly, you need to construct a substantial frame of upright tannalised timber 11cm x 6cm in section – set these posts at, say, two metres apart, putting the posts in the ground.

Fix cross-pieces clear of head height securely, one side being higher than the other by 20cm to give a fall for rain run-off; this is the frame to support the willows.

At the sides run two horizontal wires for support and tension four wires for the roof. When you have good cover, you can line the structure with exterior-quality marine plywood. No paint-



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fruit and vegetables

ing or preservative needed. You will need to leave space for a window and entrance door. After installing the ply, fix a waterproof membrane roofing felt – heavy-grade polythene.

Nature has provided the structure that will bind tight and strong – as the willows grow tall these will easily bend over the roof frame and tie into the wires. The wires should be fixed to the crosshead supports with good-size staples. Interlacing the branches and likewise on the sides will ensure it all knits together neatly.

Hardy perennials or herbaceous plants can be planted out now and of course so many invaluable shrubs are to be put to use. Take a look at my website to find out more about a class I hold about hedging plants such as a natural conservation hedge, fruiting cherry-plum hedging or an edible fence as featured at Gardener's World Live at the NEC Birmingham that obtained a silver RHS medal. My son's idea.

Coral pearl makes a pretty hedge with a mass of scarlet orange pearl-like berries in autumn.

Over the last two years I have grown by sowing seed directly into a border surrounding our two bee hives a bee mixture of seeds, all of which

produce flowers to attract bees and some of the less common butterflies.

Flowers are essential in a garden to attract pollinating insects; in fact you will find there are a number of *bona fide* nurseries and Defra-registered seed firms that sell a wide variety of floral seeds for direct sowing, including old-fashioned cottage-garden flowers going back 100 years or more.

Little did I realise when I started writing just how much our miserable winter would be extended with extreme cold temperatures, persistent rain and the worst light levels I can remember in more than 50 years of being a grower.

Even greenhouse plant-propagation has been extremely difficult, but don't despair as all is not lost. There is time to catch up with a growing season that I think is more than six weeks behind. Where you would generally have done jobs in March, these are now delayed into April or even early May and you will not lose out.

Best wishes in the meantime.

■ **Jeremy Shirley developed Challock's Victoriana Nursery Gardens; you can visit www.victoriananursery.co.uk to find out more.**

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CLASSIC bold colours and the rustic look using wood are just two of the interior design trends that are coming to the fore this year.

But it really is a matter of personal choice as colours, fabrics, furniture, textures and fittings can all be tailor-made to create a truly personal living environment.

There are two ways forward when it comes to restyling a living space. Hiring an interior designer helps homeowners to know what are the latest trends and what designs are currently available.

An expert will have more in the way of technical knowledge that householders are unlikely to possess, but if they are planning to do small-time changes in the home or revamp a room they can manage without any outside help.

The following guidelines are appropriate whatever the prevailing trends and fashions:

■ Light colours always make the space look larger and airy. Dark shades will give the effect of a space looking small.

So light-colour wall paints will make a small flat apartment look large, but dark colours such as burgundy will make a bigger room look more intimate.

White is a popular colour this year – but if it works against the room there is no reason that householders undertaking their own work should be slaves to fashion.

■ Doors and windows can make huge impact on the look of a building and on interior designing.

Using French windows and bay windows will give a view of the outside, whether it's a gar-



ILLUSION: Light colours create a feeling of space in a small room, whereas darker choices can give a more cosy effect

den or the open countryside. Windows and doors are responsible for lighting and security of the home, so they're worth a lot of consideration.

■ Furniture must be functional, especially in smaller apartments. Space-saving is most important, so a chest of drawers in the bedroom can be doubled as a dresser.

■ Colours that match always make a striking appearance. For example, red in combination with pale orange creates a harmonious effect.

■ When it comes to materials, wood is always popular. It achieves a timeless effect and natural materials will never go out of fashion. What might look cutting-edge this year in steel and

plastic may date in a few years' time. However, the rustic appeal is never out of date and is environmentally friendly as well.

But whatever the experts advise and whatever the trends are, it is the homeowner who has to live in the property. So you should decorate as much to your own specifications as possible!

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Bees make your garden grow

LAST year's poor summer was a blow to the natural breeding pattern of native bees.

The insects visit flowers to collect nectar and pollen, which they use as food for themselves and the larvae in their hives or nests.

So by moving from flower to flower, they are important pollinators of both garden and wild flowers, as well as fruits and vegetables.

There are many different species in Britain and they form three groups.

Honey bees live in colonies of up to 60,000. Each colony or hive has a single fertile female (queen bee), whose role is to lay eggs and maintain social cohesion.

Twenty-five species of bumblebee have been recorded in Britain, but some are now extinct or rare. About eight species are common in gardens.

At peak strength in mid-summer, a bumblebee nest will have up to 200 bees.

There are also about 260 species of solitary bee in Britain. Each female constructs and provisions her nest on her own and dies before the next generation of bees emerges.

For gardeners who want to start introducing bees into their environment, the red mason bee breeding programme by CJ Wildlife is a straightforward first step.



HELPING HAND: By providing nesting spots for solitary bees, you'll be encouraging a very helpful pollinator to your garden

Red mason bee cocoons are available to buy so that people can introduce one of nature's best pollinators to gardens in spring. Research has shown that this native species can pollinate plants 10 times more effectively than honey bees.

CJ Wildlife has been researching red mason bees for a number of years and trials carried out in fruit orchards have resulted in growers witnessing

significant increases in their yields.

A spokesman for the company said: "These creatures are very docile and friendly – we handle them on a regular basis and not one of the research team has ever been stung. This means they're perfectly safe around children and pets and the family can enjoy watching their progress as they lay their eggs and gradually fill up nesting tubes during the summer."

In addition to introducing red mason bees, positioning bee nests and planting nectar-rich flowers is likely to attract other solitary bees.

"With all the additional insects, not only will you see your garden blossom but you will be helping to stem the decline in bees," said the spokesman.

Due to the bees' natural life cycle, there is a limited window of opportunity to buy the cocoons, but they are

TOP TIPS

Five ways to attract bees to your garden

- Clumps of bee-friendly plants in sunny places will be more attractive than plants that are scattered or in shade.
- Double or multi-petalled plants are best avoided as they may lack pollen and nectar, or it may be difficult for bees to reach their treasure.
- Use pesticides sparingly. Avoid spraying open flowers and, if possible, do spraying in the evening when bees are less active.
- Become a beekeeper. Details of county beekeepers' associations and training courses can be found on the British Beekeepers' Association website.
- Provide nest sites for solitary bees. Some solitary bees nest in the ground, either in bare soil or short turf. They will find their own nest sites, so be sure to tolerate the small mounds of soil deposited by the female bees when they excavate their nest tunnels.

available from CJ Wildlife until mid-April and are priced at £20 for 15 bees or £30 for 30.

■ You can visit www.birdfood.co.uk/redmasonbee or phone 0800 731 2820 to find out more.



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LARGE CAR PARK

The value of a good school nearby

REGARDLESS of whether a parent intends to educate their child in the independent or the state sector, a good education comes at a premium.

Those parents who back the state-school system – and are unwilling or unable to absorb private-school fees – are also being challenged by soaring house prices, often driven by competition to secure a property within the catchment area of a leading state school.

Following the recession, which has left many parents feeling the pinch, and not to mention rising private-school fees, competition for places at the best state schools is fiercer than ever.

Research conducted by academics at the London School of Economics has revealed that some parents in the South East are paying a premium of 10-15 per cent to move into the catchment area of the best state schools.

However, home-owners can also potentially benefit from this premium, as properties within the catchment area of consistently high-performing state schools are more likely to resist the effects of any market downturns.

As demand for places at schools increases, competition for properties in these areas can intensify – even in a tough market.

While housing in the South East is notoriously priced above average, Kent is very much bucking the trend in terms of offering reasonably-priced, high-quality new-build housing located in the catchment areas of leading state, grammar and independent schools.

The Berkeley Homes development at Holborough Lakes is a case in point, where families are



HAPPY FAMILY: Steven Wisdom put proximity to good schools at the top of the list when choosing a new home

relocating from adjacent counties to secure better value for money in terms of property and also secure access to better local schools for their children.

Steven Wisdom recently bought a four-bedroom family house at the development because of the close proximity to good schools.

Having previously lived in a smaller home in Bocking Village near Braintree in Essex, Steve and his wife decided that as their daughter was fast approaching the age of five, and as there was a new baby on the way, it was time to take the

next step on the property ladder and buy a family home.

Steven said: "With our daughter growing up, we knew we'd need to start thinking about her education. We were keen to move to an area that would fall into the catchment area of some good schools, so we checked the Ofsted reviews for both schools close to Holborough Lakes – St Katherine's and Snodland C of E, which have both received good reports.

"Location was also a key factor for us. Proximity to work was the biggest driver as my previous

NEARBY SCHOOLS

- Snodland C of E primary school
Ofsted rating: Good
- St Katherine's School
Ofsted rating: Good
- Holmesdale Technology College
Ofsted rating: Good

commute of 110 miles a day was both tiring and expensive.

"We started looking in Kent and discovered the Berkeley Homes development, Holborough Lakes, which is conveniently located for motorways, meaning that the transport links are excellent.

"I now have a choice of two routes to and from work, as well as the excellent high-speed line at Ebbsfleet, which is only 15 minutes away, and there are good train links, which are important for my wife as she works at Canary Wharf.

"Bluewater is just up the road for great shopping, and with lakes and country walks on our doorstep, there are lots of exciting things to see and do with my children in the countryside."

Tina Dedman, marketing director at Berkeley Eastern Counties, said: "With many families simply not having the budget to fund a private education for their children any more, we are seeing them place an increased emphasis on being in the catchment area of a good state school. As such, more families move into Kent from London and the Home Counties."

Homes & Gardens

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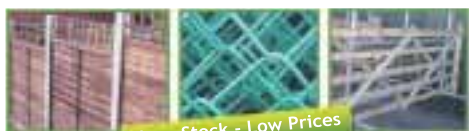
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- **Flexible:** Assertiveness Skills – Aim to build better relationships through enhancing your assertiveness skills on this one day course. Cost £195.
- **16th April:** Award and Certificate in Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools (Level 3) – blended delivery over one year. Cost £680ww
- **22nd April:** Windows Server 2008 Active Directory Configuring (over 5 days) £825 (plus £40 for course handbook) .
- **24th April:** Microsoft Office Specialist Excel 2010 Core – one day course at a special offer price of £50.00 followed by free e-learning + exam fee of £65.00 (if required)
- **29th April:** Microsoft Office Specialist Word 2010 Core one day course at a special offer price of £50.00 followed by free e-learning + exam fee of £65.00 (if required).

May

- **9th May:** Preparing to Teach in the Lifelong Learning Sector (PTTLS) – Cost £400
- **10th May:** Management Training Taster session. Free course
- **13th & 20th May:** Internal Quality Assurance of Processes & Practice – Cost £650
- **13th & 20th May:** Level 2 Award for Upskilling Door Supervisors – one day course. Cost £95
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- **21st-24th May:** IOSH Managing Safely Cost £425.

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'Significant' sale as park goes for £4.5m

A MAJOR Kent holiday park has been sold in a multi-million pound deal just a week after it was revealed the industry was to pump £50 million into the county's economy this year.

Sheerness Holiday Park was sold by Park Holidays UK to Greenspace Holdings – owners of a number of similar parks across the UK – in a deal worth £4.5 million.

The park is home to 363 static caravans and has room for 54 mobile homes as well as space for camping.

Industry experts recently suggested a surge in the number of bookings this year, as families look to holiday closer to home, meaning a busy time for many parks.

Facilities on the 32-acre Sheppey site include a recently refurbished clubhouse with bar, restaurant and arcade, an indoor swimming pool and shop.

Simon Bland of Colliers International, which advised Park Holidays on the sale, said: "We expect this to be one of the most significant transactions in the sector this year. There remains a healthy appetite for quality businesses of this type in the UK."

Tourist trade port of call for experts

MORE than 400 tourism industry experts gathered at Dover for a major conference focused on ways to bring more visitors – and money – into the county.

Held at the port's cruise terminal, the conference was organised by Kent County Council and Visit Kent.

Across the county the industry is worth an annual £3.2 billion and the event's aim was for decision-makers to listen to those at the cutting edge of the sector and find out what more KCC can do to help support entrepreneurship and jobs growth.

Figures released this week by the Tourism Alliance revealed there were nearly 17 million trips to the south east in 2011 – a four per cent rise on the previous year. This brought more than £2.5bn to the area, up 17 per cent on 2010.

KCC leader Paul Carter said: "I am optimistic about the future of tourism in Kent. The seaside renaissance has already started and the world is waking up to the enormous opportunity that the HS1 rail link brings to this part of the county."

If you have a business story, Nick Ames would like to hear from you. Telephone him on 01303 817181, or alternatively email nick.ames@archant.co.uk Follow us on Twitter @KOSbusiness



Hopes Manston finally means business with Schiphol flights

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

IT HAS proved over the years to be a business challenge which has defeated the marketing minds and deep pockets of many – but will Manston Airport finally take off as a viable option for business travellers and the public?

Twice daily return flights by Dutch carrier KLM to Amsterdam's international hub airport Schiphol, get under way on Tuesday.

And aside from making sure the numbers add up on the bottom line, it carries the weight of expectation on its shoulders after the airport was identified as one of 12 economic priorities for the future prosperity of east Kent.

The latest proposition certainly would seem to make more sense; a modest service which links into a far wider global network.

Schiphol connects to 130 cities worldwide and only takes an hour from the Thanet runway.

Daily operations will see flights leave Manston at 6.35am and 10.40am; return flights will touch-down at Manston at 10.10am and 8.50pm.

Kent businesses are adopting a "wait and see" approach, but David Ing of the county's Institute of Directors applauded KLM's move.

"I think it will be a slow burner," said Mr Ing.

LOUNGE SETS TONE OF AIRPORT'S INTENT



BUSINESS travellers will be able to take advantage of an executive lounge at Manston, opened to coincide with the launch of the KLM flights.

Manston chief executive Charles Buchanan said: "We believe it will be another compelling reason why business passengers will choose to fly from Manston rather than other airports."

The lounge will include dedicated workstations, offering Wi-Fi and access to printers plus the facility to charge mobile phones.

Access to the lounge is free to KLM's Skyteam Elite, Elite Plus and business customers, with other passengers able to use the service by purchasing tickets for £15 per person at the airport.

"When one route is established we may see another and then another. It's good news for people based in Thanet who fly to the continent, but I feel others will need to

break the habit of always heading for Gatwick or Heathrow."

Success of the venture is seen as a key part of the East Kent Growth Plan, put together by the five coun-

cils of Ashford, Canterbury, Dover, Shepway and Thanet, and also Kent County Council.

It sets out how they will work together to unlock key opportunities for new jobs and new business investment, as well as outlining economic priorities.

Charles Buchanan, Manston Airport's chief executive, explained: "The new service marks a significant step up in the operation of the airport."

"In addition to customer service and security, we have also added to our teams at air traffic control, in baggage handling, refuelling and our dedicated fire service."

Manston's deal with KLM has already directly contributed to job creation, with 42 new jobs at the airport – 14 more than originally announced when the deal was confirmed back in November.

It brings the total number of staff at the airport to almost 140.

Mr Buchanan said: "We have appointed most of the new staff with just a few places yet to fill."

"The new recruits follow the same pattern as our existing staff, with 55 per cent being Thanet residents and a further 38 per cent being from elsewhere in east Kent."

"Importantly, almost a fifth of the new recruits were previously unemployed and this has to be good news for the long-term future of the area."

SMEs wish granted as Cable confirms new state-run bank

BUSINESS secretary Vince Cable has outlined plans for a state-run bank that will provide billions of pounds to help credit-starved small businesses secure finance and provide an alternative source of finance to high street banks.

Such a plan has been top of the 'wish list' for SMEs across Kent ever since the reality of the financial crisis became apparent.

These calls were repeated in reaction to the Budget earlier this month.

Mr Cable said the bank will start investing in September and be fully operational by the second half of 2014.

It is aimed at managing £2.9 billion of existing Government debt and equity schemes designed to ease access to finance, and provide a further

£1bn to boost areas such as non-bank lending channels, such as bonds. In addition, it is hoped substantial private backers can be found to invest alongside it.

Mr Cable said: "Inadequate access to finance for small and medium-sized enterprises is one of the biggest risks to economic recovery. We need bold action to fix what has always been a weakness of the UK economy and, since the financial crisis, has become an urgent problem."

"By bringing together management, budgets and spending authorities, this government will be providing a more coherent and comprehensive package of support for businesses."

The organisation will not directly lend to small businesses, but will give advice on suitable facili-

ties and schemes as well as providing cheap wholesale finance for alternative lenders such as so-called 'challenger banks' which stand outside the mainstream.

It will also attempt to develop new long-term growth finance products which will be available to companies with years of strategy in place.

John Walker, chairman of the Federation of Small Businesses, said he was pleased the state bank "will have a clear remit around simplification and competition".

"For too long, the SME lending market has been dominated by a few big players and businesses are struggling to access finance to grow."

"Competition should come from more banks on the high street as well as alternative providers."

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Praise for college during visit by head of education watchdog Ofsted



VISIT: Sir Michael Wilshaw, centre

THE chief inspector of schools in England has praised MidKent College during a visit to the Medway campus.

Sir Michael Wilshaw – head of the education watchdog Ofsted – spoke with staff and students during a two-hour tour of the £86 million development. He also took part in a filmed interview with media production students and was shown around some of the facilities.

Sir Michael said: "My first

impression is that the general environment here is really good.

"The college has high standards of accommodation and great facilities, and it's clear from the teachers and students I've spoken to that they seem happy and are having a good experience.

"I think the college is heading in the right direction but what's important is that it doesn't take its eye off the ball and continues to focus on the quality of provision."

Catering students cook their way to fourth place

CATERING students from East Kent College have cooked up a treat by coming fourth in a national competition.

The team, made up of three students, competed in Glasgow in the Brakes Student Chef of the Year 2013 awards, after winning the south east regional event in January.

They were up against six other teams from colleges across the country and had to produce a three-course meal for the four judges in just one hour and 45 minutes.

Academy in fundraising push for wheelchairs

FOLKESTONE Academy students are raising cash to enable them to take part in wheelchair sports.

Over the past two months, a group of disabled students have been working to raise funds to buy 10 sports wheelchairs to allow them to take part in competitive sport within the school and elsewhere in the local area.

The three students, Scott Broom, Travis Sharp and Thomas West, who are wheelchair users, have a target of £5,000 to reach.



AWARDS: Graduate Emma Perry presents HRH Princess Michael of Kent with a bouquet of flowers

Jewellery gets the royal seal of approval for UCA

THE University for the Creative Arts (UCA) has yet again proven its worth to the design industry by scooping a prestigious "jewellery Oscar" for the 20th time in two decades.

Attended by HRH Princess Michael of Kent, the Craftsman and Design Awards – referred to as the 'jewellery Oscars' – saw the university rise to victory once again with a total of five awards, including the prestigious College Trophy.

The annual prize-giving, organised by the Goldsmiths' Design and Craft Council, took place in London and was attended by students from UCA Rochester's BA (Hons) silversmithing, goldsmithing and jewellery course.

Subject leader Robert Birch said: "We are all delighted to win the College Trophy for the 20th year and keep UCA's enviable record going. This year's results were personally very gratifying because the course increased the number of individual prizes it won and achieved twice as many points as the second-placed university.

"These awards are a fantastic opportunity for our students to receive recognition at the highest level but even those who did not win a prize will have gained a great deal from being exhibited in the council's highly prestigious exhibition."

Among the successes, was student Mafalda Manteigas who scooped a gold in the fine jewellery category. Fellow student Alma Geller won silver in the same category.

Silver awards were also presented to Kyosun

Jung, for medal design, and Naomi Nevill in the modellers category. There were commendations for Adam McLaren, Gemma Main and Grace Honeybul.

Gold award winner Miss Manteigas, from Portugal, studied at UCA – which has campuses in Rochester, Maidstone and Canterbury – for a semester as part of an exchange programme with a course in her home country.

The 20-year-old said: "I'm extremely grateful and happy to receive this recognition. Winning has encouraged me to continue designing jewellery and to be bold in my inspiration and designs for pieces.

"I can't believe that this has actually happened, as this was my first go at designing jewellery rather than general product design which I study in Lisbon.

"I think it's certainly time to come back to England and make some more jewellery."

UCA tutor Lynne MacLachlan won gold for her gallery jewellery designs, which also picked up the Goldsmiths' Company Assay Office London Special Award.

Graduates also won gold awards for their professional work with trophies going to Richard Gamester, Sanni Falkenberg, Victoria Freeman and Sarah Hooker.

The Goldsmiths' Craft and Design Council was founded in 1908 and looks to promote the "pursuit of excellence" in craftsmanship and design in silversmithing, goldsmithing, jewellery and allied crafts.

What is your business doing to help Keep Kent Working? Do you send employees on training courses to aid their personal development or run apprenticeship schemes? If you have a good-news story, email editorial@kosmedia.co.uk or call us on 01303 817000.

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New sustainable building course launched

A CHARITY golf day has been held by North West Kent College to celebrate the completion of a new apprenticeship course in sustainable built environment.

Organised by SusCon – part of the college specialising in sustainable construction courses – the event raised £1,300 for Demelza Children's Hospice while at the same time raising the profile of the new level four

high apprenticeship course.

Higher apprenticeship project manager at SusCon, Sally Clarke, said: "The companies who have been involved in the development and support of the new qualification have been fantastic.

"We have worked closely with the industry to ensure that we are creating a qualification that suits their high expectations."

The sustainable built

environment apprenticeship will enable students to gain skills in eco-friendly building techniques identified by the National House-Building Council (NHBC) in its report published in 2010.

It has been developed and endorsed by construction and building services employers and will provide the skills needed to build sustainable homes.

Apprentices will train to become site managers.

Confidence slumps among small business owners as gloom grows

By Nick Ames

nick.ames@archant.co.uk

CONFIDENCE is slipping away from small business owners, according to the latest survey.

A poll conducted by the Federation of Small Businesses as it looks to kick-start its Keep Trade Local campaign once more, revealed the mood among its members was gloomy.

The findings will not come as a surprise to many as they struggle in the current economic climate, and underlines the view that local businesses and shops are not only suffering from purse-strings being tightened, but the continual rise in popularity of internet shopping and the buying power of supermarkets.

For the past three years small independent shops have been closing at a rate of 5,000 per year in the UK and this rate is accelerating.

Margate, Ashford, Chatham and Hythe have been particularly hard hit in recent months.

The FSB 'Voice of Small Business' Index for the first quarter of 2013, showed that confidence among retail businesses fell from one to minus-11, meaning businesses went from being neither positive or concerned about their prospects, to being overwhelmingly negative.

Other disappointing figures from the survey showed 47 per cent of retail respondents said their revenue had fallen in the previous three months.

But with its Keep Trade Local campaign, the FSB is encouraging businesses to work together to make their high street the place to visit, and for people to understand they must use stores or face losing them for good.



SHUTDOWN: 5,000 shops are closing every year

The federation says small businesses are the heart of the Kent community; they generate wealth, employment and opportunity. But, its members say with people working longer hours and the growth of convenience, one-stop shopping and the internet, these places are at risk

The FSB is calling for councils and central government to look at how they can make grass-roots economies prosperous once again by working in partnership and helping their independent high street businesses to grow.

Following George Osborne's Budget announcements the federation hopes small firms will reconsider taking on staff or an apprentice and create more jobs.

Through its campaign the FSB is calling for:

- Business rates to be made fairer and small business rates relief to be made permanent in England as it is in Scotland
- Business rates to be indexed to the CPI inflation measure
- Central and local government to think about the 'three P's' – planning, parking and procurement – as a way to boost and encourage local trade

Roger House, FSB chairman for Kent and Medway, said: "Once the high street starts to go into decline it can be difficult to revive."

"But with the right measures from councils, local authorities and innovative small businesses the tide can be turned."

"The Government clearly understands these issues and the importance of local economies and the high streets within them."

"The Mary Portas review gave many recommendations which we believe are important to the future prosperity of the high street."

"The horsemeat scandal provided a short-term boost to our high streets, but it's time for a more concerted effort from everybody to keep their local high streets vibrant and alive."

Hope enterprise scheme will be a roaring success

THE Thames Gateway Innovation, Growth and Enterprise – known as Tiger – has been officially launched.

The scheme, financed through the Government's £2.4 billion Regional Growth Fund, was given its kick-start at Princes Park in Dartford.

It is aimed at boosting businesses across the north of the county and was first unveiled in October.

Tiger, initially aimed at media, ICT, manufacturing, tech development, environmental and low carbon businesses, offers zero per cent interest loans to companies investing in new products and services, and creating long-term job opportunities, with the aim of attracting further investment from the private sector.

The new scheme is operated by the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership with council partners Gravesham, Swale, Dartford, Medway and Kent County Council, as well as backing from local businesses.

KCC leader Paul Carter said: "Getting government backing in October was good news, but this is where the story starts."

"Investing in businesses in north Kent will mean jobs,

bring growth and it will deliver real opportunities in an area that will benefit enormously."

A similar scheme, also backed by the Regional Growth Fund, is in place in east Kent and has already seen loans to companies and an increase in commercial activity at the former Pfizer site, now rebranded as Discovery Park.

Rob Bennett, chairman of the Thames Gateway Kent Partnership, said: "Successfully unlocking £20 million of government funding for Tiger to support the growth of local businesses, shows the power of the local authorities and private sector working in partnership."

"Tiger is another important step towards unlocking the potential of the Thames Gateway by creating new high-value jobs and growth in our key industry sectors."

Mark Dance, KCC's cabinet member for regeneration and economic development, said: "The potential of this funding should not be underestimated."

"Targeting the right funding in the right places can not only transform businesses, it can kick-start the economy of an area."

Increased passenger numbers behind Eurostar record profits

ALMOST 10 million passengers used the Eurostar service last year as the company recorded a profit of more than £50 million.

And this year will see services use the high-speed line from London St Pancras, via Ebbsfleet and Ashford to Switzerland and the south of France.

The company said despite economic hard times, passenger numbers for the year ending December 31 rose two per cent from 9.7 million to 9.9 million, with the major increase in leisure travellers.

This resulted in an operating profit of £52.3 million in 2012, up from £25m in 2011.

The number of international travellers originating outside the EU has shown particularly strong growth during 2012, with volumes up eight per cent year-on-year.

Nicolas Petrovic, chief executive, said: "Despite the challenging economic climate, we delivered a strong performance in 2012. The combination of the Olympic Games and the jubilee gave London a major boost showcasing the city as a prime travel destination."

"Growth in traveller numbers was particularly strong in the fourth quarter of the year as European and international travellers flocked to the capital."

Eurostar said it will continue to "innovate and enhance" its service.

A £700m investment in creating a new fleet of trains remains on track with the production of new rolling stock



FAST TRACK: Eurostar made £52.3m

and the refurbishment of its existing fleet progressing well.

Both the refurbished and new services are being delivered to a design created by Italian engineering design company Pininfarina.

The company expects to have a completely new fleet by 2015.

This year also sees a new partnership with international high-speed train operator TGV Lyria offering a weekly service between London and some of Switzerland's ski resorts while later this summer new direct services to Lyon and Provence will launch for a trial period.

Mr Petrovic added: "The next couple of years will see the transformation of our business with a range of initiatives including the delivery of a new fleet and the launch of new services."

"The results are testament to the substantial growth opportunities within the business and the continuing drive to unlock this potential."

BUSINESS IN BRIEF

BAE systems sign up for US Army contract

DEFENCE contractor BAE Systems, which has premises in Rochester, has won a £500 million contract to supply explosives to the US Army.

The news has boosted company confidence following fears that defence cuts ordered by Washington could threaten its future.

The firm has also recently branched out into non-military technology such as oil and gas supply.

Accountants Reeves set for Discovery Park

ACCOUNTANCY company Reeves will open a new office on the Discovery Park site in Sandwich in April, to go with their premises in Chatham and Canterbury.

The former home to Pfizer, Discovery Park is playing a key role in the regeneration of east Kent, as companies take over world-class facilities left by the pharmaceutical giant when it closed most of its operations in 2011.

Big Motoring World drives into the city

TV presenter Mike Brewer was special guest at the opening of Canterbury car dealership Big Motoring World.

The business specialises in prestige used vehicles such as Bentleys, Jaguars, Mercedes and BMWs. Business general manager Darren Nafi said: "We had a very good day in spite of the snow with a lot of interest shown on the cars we had for sale."

Town-sized storage shows scale of demand

RETAILERS and food distributors will need more than 25 million sq ft of warehousing to cope with the expected increase in internet shopping over the next five years, according to a report by property consultants Jones Lang LaSalle.

This represents an area equivalent to a town the size of Tonbridge being given over to storage space as 10 per cent of all retail business takes place online.

Master builder award for renovation project

PAUL Ray Construction, based in Maidstone, was named the UK's Best Medium Renovation Projects builder at the 11th Master Builder of the Year Awards, run by the Federation of Master Builders.

George Clarke, architect and host of Channel 4's Restoration Man, presented the prize to the company for renovating a Grade II-listed building in Maidstone.

Good news for George after borrowing falls

THE Government's economic policies have received a post-Budget boost as the Office for National Statistics confirmed that borrowing fell sharply last month, putting the economy on track to meet the forecast unveiled by George Osborne in his last statement to MPs.

Borrowing in February was £2.8 billion excluding the bank bail-outs, £9bn less than February last year.



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Driving

drive**24**.co.uk

By **Steve Loader**
editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

TOYOTA must have mixed feelings as it launches the latest and fourth generation of its pioneering RAV4 SUV.

Back at the launch of the original in 1994, the RAV4 (Recreational Active Vehicle 4x4) was hailed as a breath of fresh air in the all-wheel-drive sector. It was compact, manageable, capable off-road and, most importantly for those who rarely went near muddy fields, great to drive on-road.

So good was the newcomer that it was dubbed the 'GTi off-roader' and sparked great demand, even though it was available only as a three-door initially.

But there have been a host of wannabes since, many outselling the Toyota star and prompting those mixed feelings I mentioned earlier.

The new car (from £22,595) faces a stack of rivals, notably Ford's impressive new Kuga, the British-built Honda CR-V, the well-made VW Tiguan, the dramatically-styled Kia Sportage and Skoda's brilliant all-rounder, the Yeti.

Not surprisingly, though, the RAV has raised its game: as compact SUVs have shed the 'funky chunky' styling legacy from their off-roader roots, so the Toyota has become sleeker and lower than before – it's also longer, so there's more boot space.

At last, the car also has a top-hinged tailgate to match most rivals, offering some rain shelter when loading or when 'grandstanding' at an event or picnicking, while avoiding the nuisance of the side-opener on previous versions, which didn't swing wide enough and could be restrictive in car parks.

Like much of the competition, Toyota has also recognised that many buyers now want the fuel and emissions savings from a front-wheel-drive-only SUV, though we can forgive the Japanese giant being bewildered here as it tried this formula in the second-generation car and dumped it after poor sales.

On the other hand, buyers who really do want the full 4x4 treatment get beefed-up all-wheel-drive capability for both on- and off-road performance.

There's a choice of three engines: the pricey 2.0-litre petrol 4x4 with a CVT auto box (£25,595) won't find many takers, but there is a choice of diesels, with the entry-level front-wheel-drive-only low-CO2-emission (127g/km) 2.0-litre expected to be the best-seller – especially with tax-conscious company-car-users. There is also a 2.2-litre diesel (from £26,495) to deliver the extra oomph needed for 4x4 versions.

The new RAV4 arrives at a time when Toyota's image is on the rise: having specialised so much in eco-friendly petrol-electric hybrids like the Prius, it has shown it is not averse to some glamour, too, having launched the affordable and award-winning GT86 sports coupé – soon to be sold in convertible form, too – and will also soon offer a racy Touring Sports (estate) version of the new family hatchback class Auris (from £15,595).



TOYOTA RAV4

- Price:**
£22,595
- Driving appeal:**
★★★★
- Image:**
★★★★★
- Space:**
★★★★
- Value:**
★★★★
- Running costs:**
★★★★
- Reliability:**
★★★★★
- How green?:**
★★★★
- Best rival:**
Honda CR-V

Return of sporty SUV pioneer



RETURN OF THE RAV: Toyota has seen its iconic RAV4 slowly fall behind its many rivals in the SUV sector, but the Japanese carmaker's latest version recognises many of the former model's faults and offers an altogether different drive

/// DON'T LIKE ///

... two-wheel-drive being seen as the big-seller in the new line-up, but needs must in the current climate – environmentally and economically.

/// NOT SURE ///

... the RAV4 can ever recover its crown as the ultimate compact SUV as there is too much competition, but new features will boost sales.

/// REALLY LIKE ///

... how the RAV4 has almost become a premium brand within a brand, bought by many people who would not normally consider a Toyota.

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Official Fuel Consumption in mpg (litres/100km) for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS: Urban 38.7 (7.3), Extra Urban 62.8 (4.5), Combined 51.4 (5.5). CO₂ emissions for the Fabia Hatch SE 1.2 12V 69PS 128g/km.

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MOTORING

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Roar of approval as Peugeot's flagship hybrid leads the way

By Steve Loader

editorial@kosmedia.co.uk

ONLY vehement petrolheads, obstinate Luddites and those with their heads planted firmly in sand have failed to welcome the advent of eco cars.

Nevertheless, the rest of us have waited a long time for good environmental credentials to converge with style and good taste.

Some may say they are still waiting, but I think this train arrived last year in the form of Peugeot's miserly but elegant 508RXH.

This diesel-electric hybrid also happens to be the flagship of Peugeot's D-segment or family car range, the 508 saloon and estate car – no mean contender in the style stakes itself.

What the French marque has done with the RXH version is give it the pumped-up country set look of existing all-wheel-drive estates like the Audi Allroad series, Volvo XC70, VW Passat All-track or Subaru Outback.

That means a slightly higher ride-height and beefed-up yet tasteful protection front and back and on the sills.

If this didn't make it stand out enough from its conventional sisters, though, the Gallic stylists' pièce de résistance is three vertical LED running lights flanking the grille and said to represent the claws of Peugeot's famous lion emblem.

If that sounds fanciful, the technology beneath the cosmetics is not: a typically powerful yet smooth Peugeot diesel 163bhp 2.0-litre drives the front wheels and is paired with a 37bhp electric motor driving the rear set.

Some industry observers said that marrying a diesel with electric power just couldn't be done, for various technical reasons, but Peugeot's experience in both fields has scotched that.

And the clever part about installing the two powerplants on different axles, says Peugeot, is that other engine configurations can be 'married' for different outputs and classes of vehicle.

As the RXH shows, sophisticated electronics ensure that both powertrains work in the best

PEUGEOT 508RXH : PRICE £33,695

FACT FILE



Driving appeal:	★★★★
Image:	★★★★
Space:	★★★★★
Value:	★★★★★
Running costs:	★★★★★
Reliability:	★★★★
How green?:	★★★★
Road tax:	£20/year (zero year one)
Best rival:	VW Passat All-track
Kent dealers:	
Motorline Peugeot	Canterbury 01227 451791
Robins & Day	Maidstone 01622 753333
	Rochester 01634 842231

THE GREEN MACHINE:

Peugeot's diesel-electric 508RXH has now joined the so-called 'country set' of its rivals and given this eco car a better look and ride making it one of the best motors on offer in the hybrid sector

combination, but full and silent electric ZEV mode can be selected for very short runs at up to 40mph – enough for a local shopping expedition or school drop, perhaps.

As I proved at last year's launch event, they can also combine via 4WD mode to deliver decent off-road grip, though you cannot reasonably ask the RXH to tackle anything that an off-roader would.

There is also a Sport mode, with 0-62mph in 9.5 seconds quoted by Peugeot, and I'll admit Sport was my default option. True, it punishes fuel consumption – officially 68.9mpg on the combined cycle – but it also accesses the joint powertrain's total of 200bhp quickly and calls up swifter changes from a sometimes-sluggish auto gearbox.

The car grips well and keeps its composure most of the time, but the RXH is ultimately set up to be a balance between comfort and performance

on the road yet a flier in the ownership stakes.

Priced from a keen £33,695, the tax benefits are many for the company-car user-choosers who dominate sales. Apart from being in the lowest payable road-tax bracket – zero in year one and £20 thereafter – it also attracts 12 per cent Benefit in Kind Tax against 26 per cent for the equivalent Audi A4 Allroad. Figures like those engender pragmatism to outweigh the snob appeal of cars like the Audi and Volvo.

Not that the Peugeot concedes much on creature comforts; the interior matches the high standards set recently by Peugeot, with lots of spec, including comfy half-leather seats and a trademark full-length glass roof.

My only reservation on the interior – and I'm nit-picking – is the slightly tacky colour-coded dashboard trim that mirrors the exterior paint. Peugeot interiors have shot up the rankings, but this was a false step.

First GEAR

MOTORING NEWS



Switched on by electric Zoe

RENAULT has opened order books on its eagerly-awaited affordable electric car, the Zoe.

Cute looks go with an attractive £13,995 starting price, after the £5,000 Government Plug-in Car Grant, though there is also a £70-a-month battery-hire price, too.

To balance that, early adopters can get a free wallbox for faster charging – normally this would cost £500.



Jaguar winner at Goodwood

JAGUAR'S stunning XFR-S performance flagship in its big-selling XF sports saloon line-up made its public open-air debut at the prestigious Goodwood Festival of Speed, where it was also seen with two other Jaguar performance stars: a 1962 Jaguar Mk II prepared by Jaguar Heritage Racing and a 1954 'short nose' Jaguar D-Type.

The XFR-S can hit 60mph in just 4.4 seconds.



BMW picks up fleet awards

RIDING high in the UK top 10 car-sales chart, it is perhaps no surprise that the BMW 3 Series was voted Best New Company Car at the Fleet News Awards.

Voters – those who manage or lease out company-car fleets – also made the German marque Fleet Manufacturer of the Year, while the 3 Series and 5 Series were also voted class winners.



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Career opportunities at MidKent College

MidKent College based in the Medway Towns and Maidstone is seeking to appoint outstanding individuals in the following areas:

Sessional Media Production Lecturer Reference: P024

Title: Sessional Media Production Lecturer
Salary: £24.07 - £27.07 per hr (dependent upon experience and teaching qualifications)
Location: Medway Campus

A flexible media sessional lecturer is required to teach within a busy Media department at MidKent College. The ideal candidate should hold a teaching qualification and have experience with BTEC and vocational qualifications. Current industry knowledge is desirable specifically within Television and Film and Radio industries. The Media department has excellent resources with a full equipped radio and T.V. studio.

To apply for this role please e-mail
job.applications@midkent.ac.uk.

Closing: 05/04/2013

MidKent College and RBLI Employment Solutions are working in partnership to support disabled applicants.

For assistance please contact RBLI on 0800783114 or visit their website www.rbli.co.uk

To apply please e-mail job.applications@midkent.ac.uk for an application form.

The College is committed to safeguarding young people and vulnerable adults therefore any offer of employment will be subject to a CRB check.



The Spencer Private Hospital is the independently owned and managed 22 bed private hospital situated on the QEOM Hospital site. We also have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in a vacancy for the following staff:

This position will be based at our Dover Offices

PATIENT CHOICE CO-ORDINATOR

Full time

Experience within a medical environment desirable

Previous applicants need not apply

Closing date for applications Friday 12 April 2013

To discuss the benefits or to arrange an informal visit please contact:

Paul Parish - Business Office Manager
or Julie Pain - Deputy Business Office Manager
01304 245958

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards
East Kent Medical Services Ltd
Spencer Private Hospital
2nd Floor, 5 Bench Street,
Dover
Kent CT16 1JH
Telephone: 01304 245951
Fax: 01304 207320
E-mail: jo.edwards@spencerhospitals.com

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
This position is subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check



The Spencer Private Hospital is an independently owned and managed private hospital. We have a 4 bed unit at the William Harvey Hospital in Ashford and a 22 bed unit situated on the QEOM Hospital site. The continuing growth of our business has resulted in vacancies for the following staff:

Staff Nurse (Margate)

1 Year contract (to cover Maternity Leave) wef May 2013

Nights Only

30 hours per week

Staff Nurses (Margate)

Full and part-time positions available (days)

Qualifications

Registered Nurse 1st Level

Evidence of continual professional development

Closing date for applications Friday 5 April 2013

To discuss the roles or to arrange an informal visit please contact:

Mary Guarnieri, Matron - 01843 234252

For job description and application form please contact:

Jo Edwards
East Kent Medical Services Ltd
Spencer Private Hospital
2nd Floor, 5 Bench Street,
Dover
Kent CT16 1JH
Telephone: 01304 245951
Fax: 01304 207320
E-mail: jo.edwards@spencerhospitals.com

The Spencer Private Hospital is an equal opportunity employer
These positions are subject to a Criminal Records Bureau Disclosure check



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Bradstow School

Bradstow School is a residential special school situated in Broadstairs, Kent and it is maintained by the London Borough of Wandsworth. Bradstow School recognises the importance of supporting, training and developing its staff to enable them to deliver an outstanding service for children and young people.

REGISTERED MANAGER

£38,284 - £41,228 per annum, 32 days annual leave plus statutory holidays

41 hours per week, early and late shifts (including weekends). All year round.

A manager is required for The Woodlands Children's Accommodation which will provide flexible and extended provision for the children and young people who currently attend Bradstow School. We are looking for a manager with proven managerial and leadership skills, and a knowledge of supporting children and young people with learning disabilities, autism and associated challenging behaviours.

The successful candidate will have managerial experience in a relevant residential care setting working within the Ofsted inspection framework, and an in-depth knowledge of the National Minimum Standards, the Children Acts and other relevant legislation and guidance. They should have, or be working towards the QCF Level 5 Diploma in Leadership for Health & Social Care and Children & Young People's Services, or Registered Managers Award/NVQ 4 in Health & Social Care & Management.

If you want to work within a creative and dynamic team who really make a difference to the lives of the children and young people at Bradstow School, and you want to lead this exciting extended provision, then this is the opportunity for you.

We are committed to sustainability and preserving the environment and therefore encourage applications by email. For an application form and information pack please email personnel@bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk Or you may call 01843 608727 (24 hour recruitment answer machine).

Please note that CV's will not be considered.

The closing date for all applications is 5pm Thursday 11th April 2013.



www.bradstow.wandsworth.sch.uk



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LEGAL AND PUBLIC NOTICES

NOTICE OF INTENDED LAND DISPOSAL LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT 1972 SECTION 123 (2A)

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Tunbridge Wells Borough Council intends to dispose of the freehold interest in five areas of land, which are for identification purposes described in the schedule to this notice. This notice is given in so far as each area of land consists of or forms part of an open space within the meaning of the above Section.

A plan of each area of land is available to view at the Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 2AB or at the Weald Information Centre, The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook TN17 3HF. Objections to any of the proposed disposals must be made in writing to the Legal Services Manager, Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent TN1 1RS by no later than 19 April 2013.

SCHEDULE
Land off Brokes Way, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells (approximately 0.160223 hectares)
Land at Crays Road, Matfield (approximately 0.512528 hectares)
Land at rear of Hartnokes, White's Lane, Hawkhurst (approximately 0.110355 hectares)
Land at Pixot Hill, Brenchley (approximately 0.375797 hectares)
Land at Sandrock Road, Tunbridge Wells (approximately 0.08834 hectares)
Paul Cummins,
Legal Services Manager
Dated 28th March 2013



Maidstone Borough Council ("the Council")

Notice of Dog Control Orders

Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005

Dog Control (Prescribed Offences and Penalties etc) Regulations

On 19th March 2013 the Council made the following Dog Control Orders under section 55 of the Clean Neighbourhoods and Environment Act 2005. The orders will come into force on 8th April 2013.

1) The Fouling of Land by Dogs (Maidstone) Order 2013

Under the order if a dog defecates at any time on land to which this Order applies and a person who is in charge of the dog at that time fails to remove the faeces from the land forthwith, that person shall be guilty of an offence subject to certain defences and exemptions.

The order applies to land within the borough area open to the air and to which the public are entitled or permitted to have access (with or without payment). (Any land that is covered shall be treated as land that is 'open to the air' if it is open to the air on at least one side).

2) The Dog Exclusion (Maidstone) Order 2013

Under the order a person in charge of a dog, at any time, takes the dog onto, or permits the dog to enter or to remain on, any land to which the order applies shall be guilty of an offence subject to certain defences and exemptions.

The order applies to all children's play areas which are (1) enclosed by means of a fence, hedge or wall and/or gate and (2) owned or maintained by Maidstone Borough Council or by any county, parish or town council or by any Registered Social Landlord within the borough area where a "no dog sign" is displayed.

And

Maidstone Crematorium, Vinters Park

The orders may also be viewed online at www.maidstone.gov.uk

Goods Vehicle Operator's Licence

Jason Bellamy trading as JB's Haulage Ltd of 34 Tupman Close, Rochester, Kent ME1 1RS is applying to change an existing license as follows

To add an operating centre to keep 4 goods vehicles and 3 trailers at Ryarsh Business Park, Roughetts Road, Ryarsh, West Malling, Kent ME19 5LR and which applies at the operating centre at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds LS9 6NF

Owners or occupiers of land (including buildings) near the operating centre(s) who believe that their use or enjoyment of that land would be affected, should make written representations to the Traffic Commissioner at Hillcrest House, 386 Harehills Lane, Leeds, LS9 6NF, stating their reasons, within 21 days of this notice. Representors must at the same time send a copy of their representations to the applicant at the address given at the top of this notice. A Guide To Making Representations is available from the Traffic Commissioner's office.

MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Notice of application for renewal of a Sex Establishment Licence pursuant to Schedule 3 Local Government (Miscellaneous Provisions) Act 1982

TAKE NOTICE that on 26th March 2013 James Pemble applied to Maidstone Borough Council for the renewal of a sex establishment licence in respect of Players Gentlemen's Club, 57, High Street, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1SY

DAYS AND HOURS OF OPERATION: Mondays to Sundays inclusive from 19:00 to 02:00 hours and on New Year's Eve - 19:00-03:00. **ACTIVITY:** sexual entertainment venue

The application may be inspected at the offices of the Licensing Department, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ. ANY PERSON wishing to make objections on the application shall do so in writing at the Council Offices to the Senior Licensing Officer, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, ME15 6JQ or by e-mail at licensing@maidstone.gov.uk. The grounds of the objection must be stated in general terms. The objection must be received by the Council no later than 24th April 2013.

Name: James Pemble
Organisation: Players,
Address: 57, High Street, MAIDSTONE KENT ME14 1SY
Date: 26th March 2013

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LICENSING ACT 2003:

Application for Premises Licence

An application has been validated for the premises from Kent Entertainment Ltd, trading as The Hop Farm Country Park - CORE AREA, Beltring, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 6PY on the date of: 26 March 2013. Summary of the proposed licensable activities and the proposed hours of opening: Performance of Plays from 12:00 hours until 23:00 hours every day; Exhibition of Films from 07:00 hours until 02:00 hours every day; Indoor Sporting Events from 07:00 hours until 02:00 hours every day; Boxing or Wrestling from 12:00 hours until 23:00 hours every day; Live Music from 07:00 hours until 02:00 hours every day; Recorded Music from 07:00 hours until 02:00 hours every day; Performance of dance from 07:00 hours until 02:00 hours every day; Late Night Refreshment from 23:00 hours until 03:00 hours every day; Supply of alcohol from 07:00 hours until 02:00 hours every day. House premises are open to the public are 24 hours per day. Any person wishing to view details of an application can contact the licensing team on 01732 876368.

Any person wishing to make representation about the proposals should make them in writing to: Ref: 13/00303/PREM - CORE Premises Licence, Licensing Services, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Kill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ. licensing.services@tmbc.gov.uk

LICENSING ACT 2003:

Application for Premises Licence

An application has been validated for the premises from Kent Entertainment Ltd, trading as The Hop Farm Country Park - EVENTS, Beltring, Paddock Wood, Tonbridge, Kent TN12 6PY on the date of: 26 March 2013. Summary of the proposed licensable activities and the proposed hours of opening: Performance of Plays from 12:00 hours until 23:00 hours every day; Exhibition of Films from 07:00 hours until 02:00 hours every day; Indoor Sporting Events from 07:00 hours until 02:00 hours every day; Boxing or Wrestling from 12:00 hours until 02:00 hours every day; Live Music from 07:00 hours until 02:00 hours every day; Recorded Music from 07:00 hours until 02:00 hours every day; Performance of dance from 07:00 hours until 02:00 hours every day; Late Night Refreshment from 23:00 hours until 05:00 hours every day; Supply of alcohol from 07:00 hours until 02:00 hours every day. House premises are open to the public are 24 hours per day. Any person wishing to view details of an application can contact the licensing team on 01732 876368.

Any person wishing to make representation about the proposals should make them in writing to: Ref: 13/00304/PREM - EVENTS Premises Licence, Licensing Services, Tonbridge & Malling Borough Council, Gibson Building, Gibson Drive, Kings Kill, West Malling, Kent ME19 4LZ. licensing.services@tmbc.gov.uk



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sallie.payne@archant.co.uk

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PLANNING



Planning applications

Notice under Article 13 of the Town & Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2010
Notice under Article 8 of the Town & Country Planning (General Development Procedure) Order 1995
Notice under Section 67 and/or Section 73 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Act 1990
Notice under Regulation 5 of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) Regulations 1990
Notice under Regulation 5A of the Planning (Listed Buildings and Conservation Areas) (Amendment) (England) Regulations 2004

The following applications have been submitted for consideration by the council:

CA/13/00426/FUL: The Old Chapel, Town Road, Petham, CT4 5QT Detached single-storey double garage/store and site perimeter fencing. Applicant: Ms A Squires Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00434/FUL: The Old Coal Yard, Belmont Road, Whitstable, CT5 1QP Proposed changed access to site. Applicant: South East Caravan Centre Ltd Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00446/FUL: Tirril, Church Lane, Barham, CT4 6PB Single-storey side extension. Applicant: Mr B Gibbs Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00447/FUL: 50 Nuntery Fields, Canterbury, CT1 3JT Refurbishment of existing accommodation including alterations and extension to rear of dwelling. Applicant: Mr K Martin Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00462/FUL: 40 Burgate, Canterbury, CT1 2HW Change of use from A1 shop to A4 drinking establishment. Applicant: Shepherd Neame Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/00480/FUL: The Knights Apartments, 44 New Dover Road, Canterbury Proposed change of use from Class C3 to Class C4 at 44 New Dover Road Road, Canterbury, including the loss of four undercroft parking spaces. Applicant: Lifestyle Consultants Ltd Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00497/FUL: 31 Eddington Lane, Herne Bay, CT6 5TT Demolition of existing outbuilding and the erection of a single-storey rear extension. Applicant: Ms J Goodwin Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00499/VAR: 16 St Radigunds Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AA Variation of condition 11 of CA/12/00317/FUL (approved drawings 17708A/06, 17708A/07C, 17708A/08C, 17708A/19B, 17708A/20B and 17708A/21B) drawings to be substituted by 2140 53, 2140 54, 2140 55, 2140 56, 2140 57 and 2140 58; alterations in respect of the extension of the roof to facilitate changes to the internal layout to maximise the classroom space, for ease of use. Applicant: The King's School, Canterbury Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/00504/FUL: 158 Field Avenue, Canterbury, CT1 1TS Single-storey side and front extension. Applicant: Mr and Mrs Bihik Reason: Site Notice only.
CA/13/00508/FUL: Land opposite 2 The Broadway, Sea Street, Herne Bay, CT6 8RJ Installation of telecommunications cabinet. Applicant: Openreach Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00510/FUL: St Annes Court, St George's Terrace, Herne Bay Infill of existing opening to front of building to form scooter store. Applicant: Places for People Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00511/FUL: 8 Victoria Street, Whitstable, CT5 1HZ Erection of single storey extension and first floor extension Applicant: Mr D Krause Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00516/VAR: Land adjacent to 26 Beach Walk, Whitstable, CT5 2BP Variation of condition 08 pursuant to the replacement of approved drawing numbers with the following: 2903/10, 2093/11, 2093/12, 2093/13. Alterations in respect of additional garden works not shown on the original approved drawings in relation to planning permission CA/12/00048/FUL for the demolition of existing garage/workshop and erection of detached dwelling with integral garage. Applicant: Mr J Bloice Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00524/VAR: 16 St Radigunds Street, Canterbury, CT1 2AA Variation of condition 06 of CA/12/00318/LB (approved drawings 17708A/06, 17708A/07C, 17708A/08C, 17708A/19B, 17708A/20B and 17708A/21B) drawings to be substituted by 2140 53, 2140 54, 2140 55, 2140 56, 2140 57 and 2140 58; alterations in respect of the extension of the roof to facilitate changes to the internal layout to maximise the classroom space, for ease of use. Applicant: The King's School, Canterbury Reason: Work to a listed building.
CA/13/00531/FUL: Basement Flat, 103 High Street, Herne Bay, CT6 5LA Replacement windows and doors Applicant: M Reece Reason: Conservation area.
CA/13/00534/FUL: Frog Hall Oast, Hackington Road, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9NG Proposed extension and alterations. Applicant: Mr M Perenyel Reason: Setting of listed building in conservation area.
CA/13/00542/LB: Frog Hall Oast, Hackington Road, Tyler Hill, Hackington, CT2 9NG Proposed extension and alterations. Applicant: Mr M Perenyel Reason: Work to a listed building.

Any representations should be sent in writing to the Head of Planning and Regeneration, Canterbury City Council, Military Road, Canterbury CT1 1YW or e-mailed to development.management@canterbury.gov.uk to arrive on or before **Monday 22 April 2013**.

The weekly list of applications can be viewed on our website at: www.canterbury.gov.uk/dc

Ian Brown, Head of Planning and Regeneration
Friday 29 March 2013

NOTICE OF APPLICATION FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

PLANNING (LISTED BUILDINGS AND CONSERVATION AREAS) ACT 1990

**KCC/TW/0092/2013 - Proposed development at
St James CE (Aided) Infant School, Sandrock Road,
Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN2 3PR**

St James' CE Infant School is applying to the Kent County Council for planning permission for a new single storey kitchen extension with corridor infill. New walkway canopy to link with existing mobile. New canopy to reception class play area. The proposed development adjoins the Tunbridge Wells Conservation Area and may affect its character and/or appearance and may also affect the setting of a listed building.

You may view this application at Tunbridge Wells Borough Council, 8 Grosvenor Road, Royal Tunbridge Wells, Kent, TN1 2AB.

Alternatively, details of all applications can be viewed on Kent County Council's website at www.kent.gov.uk/viewapplications or at our offices in Maidstone at the address below during all reasonable office hours.

We accept comments online via our website, by email to planning.applications@kent.gov.uk or in writing to Planning Applications Group, Kent County Council, First Floor, Invicta House, County Hall, Maidstone, Kent ME14 1XX within 21 days from the date of this notice. Please quote the application reference number and note that comments may be drawn to the attention of Council Members, the applicant and other interested persons and may include publishing on the Borough Council website.

Sharon Thompson
Head of Planning
Applications Group
Kent County Council
Dated: 31 March 2013



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THE MAIDSTONE BOROUGH COUNCIL Town and Country Planning Act Notice of Applications

MA/13/0182/N - 8, ROSEACRE LANE, BEARSTED, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 4HY - An application for listed building consent for replacement windows and doors and addition of rear rooflight. Reason: 3
MA/13/0214/N - POLLEHILL FARM HOUSE, SCRAGGED OAK ROAD, DETLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3HL - Demolition of existing extensions and erection of replacement two storey and single storey extensions. Reason: 1
MA/13/0215/N - POLLEHILL FARM HOUSE, SCRAGGED OAK ROAD, DETLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3HL - An application for listed building consent for the demolition of existing extensions and erection of replacement two storey and single storey extensions and internal alterations. Reason: 3
MA/13/0231/S - 1, CEDAR DRIVE, BARMING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME16 9HD - Outline application for the erection of a detached dwelling with all matters reserved for future consideration. Reason: 1
MA/13/0283/N - KENT COUNTY SHOWGROUND, DETLING HILL, DETLING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 3JF - Variation of condition 2 of application MA/10/2037 (Demolition of two existing exhibition buildings and existing pavilion and erection of one integrated exhibition building with function rooms and ancillary accommodation including new washrooms) to allow minor material amendments to the building omitting the external structural beams. Reason: 6
MA/13/0296/S - BROADWOOD OAST, SHEEPHURST LANE, MARDEN, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 9NU - First floor extension and addition of a staircase to existing detached garage. Reason: 1
MA/13/0303/S - THE LODGE, LEES ROAD, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6HB - An application for listed building consent for changes to fenestration including addition of rooflights and internal alterations. Reason: 3
MA/13/0331/S - 9 - 10, CHURCH WALK, HEADCORN, ASHFORD, KENT, TN27 9NP - Installation of solar panels on garage roof. Reason: 1, 2
MA/13/0332/N - ASTOR PAVILION, KENT COUNTY SHOWGROUND, DETLING HILL, DETLING, KENT - Variation of condition 7 of application MA/10/2037 Demolition of two existing exhibition buildings and existing pavilion and erection of one integrated exhibition building with function rooms and ancillary accommodation including new washrooms) to allow a change from a BREEM GOOD rating to a BREEM PASS rating. Reason: 6
MA/13/0381/S - 6, ACOTT FIELDS, YALDING, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME18 6DQ - Replacement rear conservatory. Reason: 2
MA/13/0386/N - 42, EARL STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1PS - An application for listed building consent for repairs and support to staircase. Reason: 3
MA/13/0387/S - THE BREWHOUSE, GREAT CHEVENEY, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN, MAIDSTONE, KENT, TN12 9LX - Application to renew extant planning permission MA/10/0249 to allow conversion of former brewhouse into three bedroom accommodation ancillary to Great Cheveney House. Reason: 1
MA/13/0388/S - HEN AND DUCKHURST FARM, MARDEN ROAD, STAPLEHURST, TONBRIDGE, KENT, TN12 0PD - Application to extend the time limit for implementing permission MA/09/0455 for Outline planning application to develop land for employment purposes within classes B1, B2 and B8 with access to be considered at this stage and all other matters reserved for future consideration. Reason: 6
MA/13/0389/N - ECLIPSE PARK, SITTINGBOURNE ROAD, MAIDSTONE, KENT - Application for a new permission to replace an extant planning permission MA/10/0389 in order to extend the time limit for implementation of the outline planning permission for B1 and B2 development to include the renewal of the extant reserved matters approvals for plots 6, 7 & 8 (MA/01/0249/05, MA/01/0249/06 and MA/01/0249/07 respectively). Reason: 6
MA/13/0392/N - MAIDSTONE ADULT EDUCATION CENTRE, MAIDSTONE MUSEUM, ST FAITHS STREET, MAIDSTONE, KENT, ME14 1LU - An application for listed building consent for external and internal refurbishment and repairs. Reason: 3
MA/13/0403/S - THE BREWHOUSE, GREAT CHEVENEY, GOUDHURST ROAD, MARDEN, MAIDSTONE, KENT, TN12 9LX - Application to renew extant listed building consent MA/10/0248 to allow conversion of former brewhouse into three bedroom accommodation ancillary to Great Cheveney House. Reason: 3

Reasons for advertisement key:

- 1 - Applications affects the setting of a Listed Building.
- 2 - Application affects the setting of a Conservation Area.
- 3 - Application is for Listed Building Consent.
- 6 - Application is Major Development.

Copies of applications listed may be seen at Maidstone Gateway, Maidstone during office hours (Monday to Wednesday 8.30am to 5.30pm, Thursday 8.30am to 7pm, Friday 8.30am to 5.30pm and Saturday 9am to 1pm). Any representations should be made in writing to me by no later than **14th April 2013**, quoting the application number.

Rob Jarman, Head of Development Management, Maidstone Borough Council, Maidstone House, King Street, Maidstone, Kent ME15 6JQ. Dated: 31st March 2013



Town and Country Planning Acts

The Council is required to give notice of the following applications

13/00538/CAC Sissinghurst Primary School The Street, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst - Conservation Area Consent - Partial demolition of front boundary wall to increase vehicle access and lowering in height of piers (CA)

13/00616/FUL Gofford Stables Tenterden Road, Cranbrook And Sissinghurst - Demolition of existing outbuilding and erection of new garage with store above (LB)

13/00483/FUL 55E Frant Road Royal Tunbridge Wells, Pantiles & St Marks - Installation of velux window to rear porch roof (CA)

13/00610/LBC Gardeners Cottage & Woodmans Cottage Blackhurst Park, Park - Listed Building Consent: Internal alterations to convert cottages to one dwelling. Addition of door canopies on south east elevation (LB)

13/00614/FUL Mulberry Lodge 16 Calverley Park Gardens, Park - Evacuation and construction of exercise pool (CA)

13/00565/LBC Carthouse Chalkett Farm, Pembury - Listed Building Consent: Proposed underpinning and repairs (LB)

13/00476/LBC The Stables David Salomons Estate, Southborough Town Council - Listed Building Consent - Insertion of new aluminium framed, glazed screen to form lobby behind existing (LB)

13/00638/FUL 2 School Cottage Church Road, Southborough Town Council - Change of use from C3 dwellinghouse to D1 Children's Day Nursery (CA)

(DEVPLN) Departure from the Development Plan (PROW) Affecting A Public Right of Way (CA) Affecting a Conservation Area (LB) Affecting a Listed Building (MAJOR) Major Applications (MAST) Mast Applications (EIA) Applications Accompanied by an EIA Statement.

You may view these applications on our website (www.tunbridgewells.gov.uk), at the The Old Fire Station, Stone Street, Cranbrook or at Gateway, 8 Grosvenor Road, Tunbridge Wells. We accept comments online, by email to planningcomments@tunbridgewells.gov.uk or in writing to the address below. Comments should be made within 21 days from the date of this notice, although we may accept them after this date.

You should quote the reference and be aware that we make all comments available for inspection, placing them on the file and publishing them on the internet. We do not publish signatures, telephone numbers or email addresses on the internet.

James Freeman
Head of Planning Services
Tunbridge Wells Borough Council
Town Hall, Royal Tunbridge Wells TN1 1RS
Dated: 30 March 2013



To place your notice here call the Kent Public Notice team on **01303 817056**

HIGHWAYS - ASHFORD AREA

ROMDEN ROAD, ROMDEN, SMARDEN (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow safe access to telegraph poles to restore customer phone service, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Romden Road, Smarden, on or after 2 April 2013 for up to 3 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Buffalo Lane and Wissenen Lane.

The alternative route is via Buffalo Lane, Bethersden Road, Cage Lane, The Street (note that there is a 7.5 T weight restriction, and this route is unsuitable for long vehicles), Pluckley Road, Dorking Lane and Romden Road.

VARIOUS ROADS, RURAL ASHFORD (PATCHING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY APRIL ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway patching works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the rural part of the Ashford area, on or after 8 April 2013 as shown below.

The roads affected, dates of closure and alternative routes are as shown below.

MALMAINS ROAD, PLUCKLEY - closed between Station Road and Surrenden Road

8 - 16 April 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Station Road, Dowle Street Road and Surrenden Road

ETCHDEN ROAD, BETHERSDEN - closed between Park Lane and Bears Lane

13 - 15 April 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Park Lane, Vitters Oak Lane and Goldwell Lane

WOOTTON LANE, CHARING - closed between Westwell Lane and Maidstone Road

15 - 18 April 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Westwell Lane, Wicken Lane and A20 Ashford Road

SLY CORNER, KENNARDINGTON - closed between Bench Hill and Appledore Road

16 - April 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Woodchurch Road, Kenardington Road and Appledore Road.

LEWD LANE, SMARDEN - closed between Bell Lane and Mount Pleasant Farm

18 - 25 April 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Bell Lane, Water Lane, Mill Lane and Pluckley Road

MOCKBEGGAR LANE, BENENDEN - closed between Goddards Green Road and Cranbrook Road

19 - 21 April 2013.

Alternative route via Goddards Green Road, Benenden Road and Cranbrook Road

MOOR LANE, APPLIEDORE - closed between Woodchurch Road and New Bridge

21 - 25 April 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Moor Lane, Brook Street, Appledore Road, Bench Hill and Woodchurch Road

PARK LANE, CHARING - closed between Hunger Hatch Lane and Pivington Lane

24 - 26 April 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Bell Lane, Water Lane, Mill Lane, Pluckley Road and Hunger Hatch Lane

PRIORY ROAD, BILSINGTON - closed between Frith Road and Bonnington Road

24 - 30 April 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Frith Road, Ashford Road and Bonnington Road

RUSHBROOK & DOWLE STREET ROAD , PLUCKLEY - closed between Station Road and Malmains Road

26 April - 4 May 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Station Road and Malmains Road

BOND LANE, KINGSNORTH - closed between Steeds Lane and Church Hill

29 April - 3 May 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Steeds Lane, Ashford Road and Church Hill

MALTHOUSE LANE, WAREHORNE - closed between Woodchurch Road and Warehorne Road

9 - 11 May 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Warehorne Road, Ashford Road Ham Street Road and Birchett Lane

LOWER ENSDEN ROAD, CHILHAM - closed between Selling Road to Lower Lees Road

11 - 13 May 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Selling Road and Lower Lees Road

BONNINGTON ROAD, BILSINGTON - closed between Priory Road and Bonnington Cross

13 - 15 May 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Newchurch Road, Honey Wood Lane and Frogmore Lane

COOPERS LANE, MERSHAM - closed between Roman Road and Chequer Tree Farm Road

14 - 17 May 2013 inclusive

Alternative route via Bank Road, Laws Lane, Frith Road and Coopers Lane

HIGHWAYS - CANTERBURY AREA

KINGS ROAD, HERNE BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Kings Road, Herne Bay, on or after 2 April 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

Kings Road will be closed between the junctions with Park Road and Canterbury Road, in 2 phases as shown below.

PHASE 1 - between Park Road and Underdown Road
The alternative routes are

Eastbound via Richmond Street, High Street, B2205 Canterbury Road and Kings Road

Westbound via Underdown Road, New Street, B2205 High Street, and Richmond Street

PHASE 2 - between William Street and B2205 Canterbury Road

The alternative routes are

Eastbound via Beach Street, B2205 High Street and Canterbury Road

Westbound via B2205 Canterbury Road, High Street and William Street

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Underdown Road will be suspended between the junctions with King's Road and Queens Gardens, to allow access.

Various side roads will be closed at their junctions with Kings Road as the works progress, as signposted on site, with local diversions.

VARIOUS ROADS, CANTERBURY (RESURFACING) (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER APRIL 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on various roads in the Canterbury area, on or after 9 April 2013 as shown below.

TYLER HILL ROAD, BLEAN will be closed between A290 Blean Common and School Lane, on 9 April 2013, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours

The alternative route is via Tyler Hill Road, Calais Hill, Canterbury Hill, Giles Lane, A290 Whitstable Road, A290 Tile Kiln Hill, A290 Blean Hill and A290 Blean Common

BLACK GRIFFIN LANE, CANTERBURY will be closed between Tower Way and St Peter's Grove, on 10 & 11 April 2013, between 08:00 hours and 17:00 hours

The alternative route is via Tower Way and St Peter's Grove

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of St Peter's Grove will be suspended for its entire length for the duration of these works, to allow its use for the diversion route

ST PETER'S GROVE, CANTERBURY will be closed between Tower Way and Black Griffin Lane, on 12 & 13 April 2013, between 08:00 hours and 17:00 hours

The alternative route is via Tower Way and Black Griffin Lane

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Black Griffin Lane will be suspended for its entire length for the duration of these works, to allow its use for the diversion route

LANDSDOWN ROAD, CANTERBURY will be closed for its entire length, from the junction with Nunery Fields, on 17 & 18 April 2013, between 09:00 hours and 16:00 hours

There is no alternative route as the road is a cul-de-sac.

HIGHWAYS - DARTFORD AREA

GORE ROAD, DARTFORD (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of the installation of an electric cable by UK Power Networks, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Gore Road, on or after 1st April 2013 for up to 7 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside number 52 Gore Road (side road).

The alternative route is via Gore Road.

HIGHWAYS - GRAVESHAM AREA

PARROCK STREET, GRAVESEND (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of construction of new 20mph traffic calmed Zone, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Parrock Street, Gravesend, on or after 15th April 2013 for up to 6 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from the junction with Lord Street to the junction with Home Mead Close.

The alternative route is via Lord Street, Wrotham Road Old Road West, Old Road East, Rochester Road, East Milton Road, Milton Road and Parrock Street.

HIGHWAYS - MAIDSTONE AREA

BEARSTED ROAD, BOXLEY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of utility apparatus diversionary works for the new roundabout at KIMS Hospital, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bearsted Road, Boxley, Maidstone, on or after 2 April 2013 for up to 3 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Newnham Court Farm to New Cut Road.

The alternative route is via A249 Sittingbourne Road, A20 Ashford Road, New Cut Road. Over-height vehicles will be diverted via A249 Sittingbourne Road, A20 Andrew Boughton Way, A249 Wat Tyler Way, Mote Road, A229 Upper Stone Street, A274 Sutton Road, Willington Street, A20 Ashford Road, New Cut Road.

BULL LANE, STOCKBURY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of drainage improvement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bull Lane, Stockbury, Maidstone, on or after 2 April 2013 for up to 11 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside "Nettlestead".

The alternative route is via Cowstead Road, Lower Hartlip Road, Cradles Road, Hill Green Road, The Street.

EGERTON ROAD, MAIDSTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING & SUSPENSION OF ONE-WAY ORDER) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to construct foul and storm water manholes, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Egerton Road, Maidstone, on or after 15 April 2013 for up to 1 week or until the works have been completed. The One-Way Traffic Order will also be suspended.

The road will be closed from outside number 2 to 44.

The alternative route is via Calder Road.

HIGHWAYS - SHEPWAY AREA

CHAPEL STREET, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of junction improvement works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Chapel Street, Hythe, on or after 2 April 2013 for up to 2 weeks or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Bank Street.

The alternative route is via High Street, A259 Rampart Road, Prospect Road, Bank Street.

The One-way Traffic Order in respect of Chapel Street will be suspended, to allow access up to the point of closure.

FLEMING WAY, FOLKESTONE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of works to install a new fibre optic cabinet for broadband upgrades, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Fleming Way, Folkestone, on or after 15 April 2013 for up to 10 days, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from number 55 to the junction with George Gurr Crescent.

The alternative route is via Montgomery Way and George Gurr Crescent.

There will be a suspension of the One-way Traffic Order up to the point of closure, to allow access.

JEFFERSTONE LANE, ST MARY'S BAY (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway micro-surfacing works, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Jefferstone Lane, St Mary's Bay, on or after 20 April 2013 for up to 2 days, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours each day.

Further closures will be needed for up to 2 days, within 2 weeks of the micro-surfacing for re-alignment of covers, with the dates to be signposted on site and advised locally.

The road will be closed between the junction with Laurel Avenue and the National Speed Limit signs.

The alternative route is via A259 Dymchurch Road, St Mary's Road and Jefferstone Lane.

TWISS AVENUE, HYTHE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Twiss Avenue, Hythe, on or after 20 April 2013 for up to 1 day, between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours.

A further one-day closure will be needed for re-alignment of covers, within 2 weeks of the micro-surfacing, with the date to be signposted on site and advised locally.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

There is no alternative route as the road is a *cul-de-sac*.

Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so, but there are likely to be some delays and certain times when this is not possible, due to the use of machinery.

HIGHWAYS - SWALE AREA

BELL ROAD, CROWN QUAY LANE & HIGHTSTED ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Bell Road, Crown Quay Lane & Hightsted Road, Sittingbourne, on or after 16 April 2013, as shown below.

Closures will be between 19:00 hours through until 05:00 hours each night.

BELL ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE will be closed between High Street and Avenue of Remembrance.

Closures are planned for the nights of 17, 22 & 23 April 2013

Alternative route via Crown Quay Lane, A2 St Michael's Road, A2 Dover Street, Park Road, Albany Road and Avenue of Remembrance (and vice versa using West Street, St Michaels Road and Dover Street)

CROWN QUAY LANE, SITTINGBOURNE will be closed between High Street and A2 St Michael's Road.

Closures are planned for the nights of 16, 19 & 24 April 2013

Alternative route via A2 St Michael's Road, A2 Dover Street, Park Road, Albany Road, Avenue of Remembrance and Bell Road (and vice versa using West Street, St Michael's Road and Dover Street)

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways & Transportation,
on 08458 247 800 (local rate)
or visit www.kent.gov.uk/highways



HIGHSTED ROAD, SITTINGBOURNE - closed at the junction with Bell Road, on 18 April 2013
Alternative route via Highsted Road, Brenchley Road and Bell Road.

CHURCH STREET, FAVERSHAM
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Church Street, Faversham, on or after 8 April 2013 for up to 1 day, between 09:30 hours until 15:30 hours.

The road will be closed for its entire length, from the junction with Abbey Street and also affects access to Vicarage Street.

There is no alternative route as the roads are cul-de-sacs.

Every effort will be made to maintain access whenever it is safe to do so, but there are likely to be some delays and various times when this is not possible, due to the use of machinery.

HIGHWAYS - THANET AREA

CECILIA GROVE, BROADSTAIRS
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

To allow works for the construction of a central pedestrian island and additional pedestrian and junction improvements, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Cecilia Grove, Broadstairs, on or after 2 April 2013 for up to 2 weeks, or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed for its entire length.

The alternative route is via Grange Road and Beacon Road.

Waiting will be prohibited at all times on both sides of the section of Beacon Road between the junctions with Westover Road / Cecilia Grove and Grange Road, with the extent indicated by signs and No Waiting cones on site.

Please note that these works were initially scheduled to have been carried out in February 2013.

KING STREET, RAMSGATE (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on King Street, Ramsgate, on or after 19 April 2013 for up to 1 night, between 18:00 hours and midnight.

King Street will be closed between Plains of Waterloo and Broad Street.

The alternative route is via King Street, Sussex Street, Hardres Street, Brunswick Street, Turner Street and Broad Street (and vice versa, using Broad Street and Hardres Street in reverse)

The One-way Traffic Orders in respect of the following roads will be suspended during these works, when indicated by the appropriate signage, to allow their use in the diversion

BRUNSWICK STREET for its entire length

BROAD STREET between the junctions with King Street and Turner Street

KING STREET between the junctions with Brunswick Street and Broad Street

HARDRES STREET between the junctions with Brunswick Street and Sussex Street

NORTHDOWN ROAD, MARGATE
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Northdown Road, Margate, on or after 4 April 2013 for up to 2 days, between 09:30 hours and 15:30 hours each day.

The road will be closed between the junctions with Queen Elizabeth Avenue and Princess Margaret Avenue.

The alternative route is via Queen Elizabeth Avenue, Northdown Park Road, Foreland Avenue, Northdown Road, Northumberland Avenue, Palm Bay Avenue, Princess Margaret Avenue, Eastchurch Road, Summerfield Road, Elmstone Gardens and Northdown Road.

SEAMARK CLOSE, MONKTON & ST LUKE'S CLOSE, WESTGATE ON SEA (PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013

THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of carriageway repairs and resurfacing, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Seamark Close, Monkton & St Luke's Close, Westgate On Sea, on or after 15 April 2013 as shown below.

SEAMARK CLOSE, MONKTON - closed for its entire length, from the junction with Monkton Street, on 15 April 2013

ST LUKE'S CLOSE, WESTGATE ON SEA - closed for its entire length, from the junction with Lymington Road, on 16 April 2013

Closures are between 07:00 hours and 19:00 hours for each location.

Both roads are *cul-de-sacs*, with no alternative routes.

Every effort will be made maintain access whenever it is

safe to do so, but there are likely to be some delays and various times when this is not possible, due to the use of machinery.

TONBRIDGE & MALLING AREA

GILLETTS LANE, EAST MALLING
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to install new mains and gas service, Kent County Council intends to make an Order prohibiting through traffic on Gilletts Lane, East Malling, Tonbridge & Malling, on or after 15 April 2013 for up to 10 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed at the junction with Wateringbury Road.

The alternative route is via Chapel Street, The Rocks Road, Gilletts Lane.

MILL LANE, HILDENBOROUGH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to access the overhead BT network for a new connection, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Mill Lane, Hildenborough, Tonbridge & Malling, on or after 2 April 2013 for up to 2 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Underriver House Lane to Vines Lane.

The alternative route is via Vines Lane, Riding Lane, Hildenborough Road, Underriver House Lane.

HIGHWAYS - TUNBRIDGE WELLS AREA

COLDHARBOUR ROAD, BENENDEN
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary to access an underground structure for BT cabling works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Coldharbour Road, Benenden, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 1 April 2013 for up to 3 days or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed from Babbs Lane to New Pond Road.

The alternative route is via Babbs Lane, Mounts Hill, New Pond Road.

LUCKS LANE, PADDOCK WOOD
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because of track maintenance works, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Lucks Lane, Paddock Wood, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 7 April 2013 for up to 1 night between 01.00hrs and 04.00hrs or until the works have been completed. The road will be closed at Swatlands Level Crossing.

The alternative route is via B2160 Maidstone Road, Wagon Lane, Queen Street, Lucks Lane.

VAUXHALL LANE, SOUTHBOROUGH
(PROHIBITION OF DRIVING) TEMPORARY ORDER 2013
THE ROAD TRAFFIC REGULATION ACT 1984
AS AMENDED BY THE ROAD TRAFFIC (TEMPORARY RESTRICTIONS) ACT 1991

Because it is necessary for BT to replace a telegraph pole, Kent County Council has made an Order prohibiting through traffic on Vauxhall Lane, Southborough, Tunbridge Wells, on or after 7 April 2013 for up to 1 day or until the works have been completed.

The road will be closed outside Honnington Farm.

The alternative route is via A26 London Road/Quarry Hill Road, A2014 Pembury Road, Vauxhall Lane (A21 link road).

John Burr
Director of Highways & Transportation
Kent County Council
Invicta House
County Hall,
Maidstone
Kent ME14 1XQ

Dated 31st March 2013

For further information, please contact
Kent County Council Highways & Transportation,
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FOOTBALL

Striker recalled

GILLINGHAM loanee Antonio German has been recalled by parent club Brentford.

The striker made a big impression on Gills boss Martin Allen during his loan stay, which was due to end after the game against Rotherham on Easter Monday. However, the Bees have exercised their right to recall him ahead of schedule.

He came to Priestfield on loan at the end of February, making seven appearances, including four starts, and scoring once in the 2-1 win over Plymouth Argyle.

The emergency loan window closed on Thursday this week with the Gills not adding to their squad for the final run-in.

Allen said he was happy to see out the season with what he already had at his disposal.

ATHLETICS

Trio in the top 40

THREE Kent runners gave promising performances on the international running stage.

East Kent Invicta teenagers Rebecca Weston and sisters Bobby and Alex Clay flew out to Bydgoszcz in Poland last weekend, hoping to do the county proud in the World Cross-Country Championships.

The trio had previously performed well enough in national competitions to be selected for the Junior Women's team for the 6km race.

Bobby, the younger of the Clay sisters, finished 27th in the competition in a time of 19 minutes and 45 seconds, while Weston finished 33rd in 20 minutes flat and Alex 37th in 20 minutes and 11 seconds.

SPEEDWAY

Kingston a King

THE Kent Kings have announced their sixth signing of the season, with teenager Jack Kingston arriving on loan.

The 17-year-old from Thurrock has joined the Sittingbourne-based side on loan from Elite League team Lakeside Hammers. He had previously had guest appearances for the Hackney Hawks and Stoke Potters in the National League.

He starts his season at Central Park, his first full campaign in the National League, on a three-point average following a successful year in the Anglian Junior Development League.

The Kings have one more place left in their squad for the season, which starts on May 6.

CRICKET

I was told I'd be dead in two years; now Kent's my future

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

IT was not that long ago Callum Haggett was told he had two years to live unless he had open-heart surgery, but now he is heading into his debut season with Kent and looking forward to a fresh start in his young career.

The all-rounder signed for the county last month, having impressed in second XI games last season. It ended his boyhood association with his home county Somerset, where he had struggled to make an impact despite having looked set for stardom early on.

Disaster had struck when Haggett was given the shock of his life just weeks before he was to jet out to New Zealand for the under-19 World Cup with England in early 2010. A routine heart scan gave cause for concern, showing he had an inflamed aortic valve needing urgent attention.

It forced him to withdraw from the squad and made him fear for his career. Coincidentally, Kent's Adam Ball was the man called up as his replacement.

"We had a random screening and my aorta was too large and getting bigger," he said. "I was told I would have been dead in two years, so I went to Belgium to get it fixed."

Following a successful operation, Haggett, pictured below, was back exercising within three months and playing cricket again in five. He now has a clean bill of health, along with regular check-ups.

"It took me a while to get back into cricket and now I'm just hoping to kick on," he said. "It was a scary experience, but the ECB and Somerset helped me through it."

"It was a shock to the system. The first thing that came to my mind was 'Can they fix it?'. But now I go to regular check-ups and it's fine."

"There have been times when I wondered if playing cricket again would happen. You can't dwell on it. I try to look forward. If they hadn't found it I might not be here today."

"I found it hard to get back to where I was – Somerset were strong then – and I couldn't break into the team. Op-

Pictures: ADY KERRY



COLD: Kent's players shiver at the St Lawrence Ground this week at the county's annual media day

portunities were hard to come by."

The 22-year-old was persuaded to join the county by former Millfield School pupil and Kent starlet Daniel Bell-Drummond.

He is not the first to have trodden a path out of Millfield's doors and into cricket, following England stars Simon Jones and Craig Kieswetter, among many others.

"I got in contact through my coach at Millfield School, and Daniel Bell-Drummond helped as well because he went there," he said.

"I got some trial games and it went well. It's been excellent. I'm just taking it all in."

"Somerset

made me a downgraded offer – a winter contract basically. I turned it down. Whether it's the right decision or not only time will tell. I'm looking forward to Kent now."

"I think a fresh start was definitely the right thing. I needed to have a new challenge and just try to enjoy playing cricket again. I had a hard couple of years – I enjoyed my time there but needed to get away."

Haggett played three T20 matches for Somerset at the start of 2011, when they qualified for the Caribbean T20, but he is under no illusions, knowing he will have to fight for his place in Jimmy Adams's side at the St Lawrence Ground.

"Hopefully, if I get the chance to play I can do well," he said. "Whatever happens for me, hopefully it will be good enough and we can have a good season."

■ **Kent play their first home friendly match at the St Lawrence Ground in a two-day game against Surrey on Tuesday. Play starts at 11am.**

MOTORSPORT

Long-term deal gives stability to rallycross at Lydden Hill

EUROPEAN rallycross action is heading for Lydden Hill this Easter weekend and it promises to herald the dawning of a new era for the sport.

The Kent circuit is expecting a massive crowd for the first leg of the ERC this Sunday and Easter Monday, with some of the sport's biggest names set to appear.

Those due to race include Sittingbourne star Liam Doran, who came second in the series last season, while 2003 World Rally Champion Petter Solberg will be in attendance, racing against his older brother Henning for the first time in their careers.

The spike in interest from both



STAR: Liam Doran will be at the European Rallycross Championships at Lydden

visitors and participants has been brought about by a new 10-year deal to promote the ERC series by global

sports, media and fashion marketing company IMG.

Last year the same event attracted

more than 7,000 people on the busiest day, the Monday. This year they are expecting upwards of 10,000. But the weather obviously plays a big part.

The deal has created quite a buzz at Lydden Hill, where officials are hoping it can bring more stability for the sport, as the track's marketing manager Xavier McCartan said: "IMG have come in and agreed deals with all the circuits in each country," he said. "They are giving the competition stability. We can approach long-term sponsors on five- to six-year plans. It's got a foundation now where it will grow."

The track sits in a natural amphitheatre, meaning it offers

excellent race-viewing from every angle.

"It's going to be superb to watch," said McCartan. "They accelerate quicker than Formula One cars – from 0-60 in two seconds – they are four-wheel-drive and the supercars have 650 horsepower."

All three classes of the rallycross series, the supercar, super1600 and touring car, will be on show in qualifying and practice on Sunday and Monday morning before the finals on Monday afternoon.

On Sunday doors open at 9am, with racing from 12.30pm-5pm. On Monday doors open at 7am; racing starts at 10am. Visit www.lyddenhill.co.uk for more information.

Sport

For more sports news and pictures go to www.kentsport.co.uk

FOOTBALL

Weston: let's focus and claim the title or face consequences

By Greg Miles

greg.miles@archant.co.uk

MYLES Weston has urged his Gillingham teammates to stay focused and take a giant leap towards promotion this Easter, admitting that losing out on the title after their dominant season would be devastating.

There are just five games to go after this weekend until the end of the season and Martin Allen's men have built up a considerable cushion at the top of the table.

However, they face a tough run-in against sides scrambling for survival and promotion themselves, meaning every ounce of concentration will be required under testing circumstances. And Winger Weston, who made his comeback from injury against Accrington Stanley last weekend, admits that missing out on the title they have led the chase for this season would be a catastrophe.

"Not winning the league would be devastating to us. Promotion is one thing, but we have to end it right, and ending it right is winning the league – that's the goal we want," he said.

"A lot of players haven't won the league – I haven't and the gaffer hasn't. It would be a big achievement for everyone.

"Everyone is excited because we know it's in our hands. If we win the games we get promoted – it's a good position to be in. If we keep winning it's putting pressure on other teams.

"The mood in the camp is good – we know we are nearly there, we can talk about it, but it's about doing it now."

While he is confident of the eventual outcome, he knows the Gills cannot afford to be complacent about it.

"You have got to be careful, we know we haven't won the league yet or been promoted yet," he said. "In our dressing room we are not complacent, we are more focused than anything. We have got to rise to the occasion and get the three points – then we get closer to the prize.

"I don't feel like we are putting pressure on ourselves – it's more exciting, because another



Picture: ADY KERRY

Head-to-head

Gillingham Wins 22,
Rotherham Wins 16,
Draws 22

Last meeting:

Saturday, December 8,
2013 (League Two)
Rotherham 1
Gillingham 2

Rotherham's form:

LDLWDD*

League position:

7th*

* Before Friday night's match
at home to AFC Wimbledon

STAY SHARP! Myles Weston is keen for focus on Gills run-in

three points gets us closer. It's just enjoyable, we want to play against these teams and get the points we need."

The 24-year-old is pleased to be back in contention, having watched from the sidelines since picking up his ankle injury in the first half against Oxford at the end of February.

"I'm happy to be back," he said. "It's been hard, it's hard because everyone knows we are nearly there. To not contribute like I want to and watching them go out there, you have to help in a different way, give them the encouragement to go out and do well.

"I've not been watching training – that is hard to do. It's hard to see the manager pick the team and not be involved – there are other roles you play when you're injured."

After Saturday's game at Fleetwood, the Gills host Steve Evans's Rotherham in what is set to be a cracking Easter Monday at Priestfield.

The Scot is hardly a popular visitor, having had a spat with former Gills boss Andy Hesselthaler last season, while he was not happy with off-the-ball incidents during Gillingham's 2-1 win in Yorkshire in December.

Allen is confident his side will be backed by another packed house on the back of the 10,000-plus home gates in their last two matches at Priestfield, against Plymouth Argyle and Accrington.

"I know what it's going to be like on Monday and I think you do, too," he said. "This place is going to be absolutely rammed. I know what they want and we will deliver."

NON-LEAGUE TALK

Darts lose Fulham keeper while Stubbs joins Stones

DARTFORD'S loan star Marcus Bettinelli has been recalled by his parent club Fulham.

The popular stopper has been a key figure for the Blue Square Premier side this season in two loan spells.

The 20-year-old made 35 appearances for Tony Burman's side this season, keeping nine clean sheets in the process.

Ryman One South leaders **Maidstone United** have added Dan Stubbs to their ranks.

The midfielder left Ryman Premier side Margate earlier this month, having previously had spells at KA Akureyri in Iceland and Gravesend & Northfleet. It is his third spell with the Stones.

Winger Sam Long, who started

the season under Chris Kinnear at Margate, has joined him at Blue Square South promotion hopefuls **Dover Athletic**.

He left Hartsdown Park for Cray Wanderers following Kinnear's departure in January but has now re-signed at the Crabble, where he played back in 2010.

Bromley have extended the loan of Crystal Palace defender Jack Holland until the end of the season.

The 21-year-old came through the ranks at the Blue Square South side before joining the Eagles as a scholar.

Ryman One North side **Chatham Town** have signed 18-year-old Alfie Coates from Gillingham on work-experience terms until the end of the season.

MOTORSPORT

Motorbase all geared up for opening BTCC rounds

MOTORBASE Performance is gearing up for its most exciting season ever – starting at Brands Hatch this weekend in the opening rounds of the British Touring Car Championship.

This season marks the beginning of a new era for the team of Mat Jackson, Aron Smith and Liam Griffin at the renamed Airwaves Racing. They have entered the BTCC as constructors for the first time, having built their two new NGTC machines in their workshop just a mile from Brands Hatch.

Jackson said: "I always look forward to going racing at Brands – obviously it's the team's local track and we always get a lot of support whenever we race there. With the NGTC programme we're now up



Picture: NICK DUNGAN

START: BTCC is at Brands Hatch

to two cars, so hopefully we can get the set-up in the right direction to challenge for race wins from the off. Everybody at Airwaves Racing is working immensely hard to achieve this."

Live coverage will be shown from Saturday and Sunday on ITV4; see www.itv.com for details.



This season marks the 100th anniversary of the Gills being known as Gillingham, having originally being founded as New Brompton. We are celebrating those we think deserve a place in the team of the century.

TONY CASCARINO

Date of birth:
September 1, 1962

Gills stats:

269 appearances,
110 goals

Clubs: Gillingham,
Millwall, Aston Villa,
Celtic, Chelsea,
Marseille, Nancy



TONY Cascarino made multi-million-pound transfers after leaving the Gills, having signed at Priestfield in exchange for a set of tracksuits.

The big striker, from St Paul's Cray, started his career at Kent League side Crockenhill and joined Gillingham in January 1982, reportedly in exchange for some training gear and other equipment after catching the eye of Keith Peacock.

At 6ft 3in he represented an aerial threat in an exciting forward line for the club throughout the 1980s, going on to play 88 times for Ireland, as well as some of Europe's top clubs.

He made his debut away to Burnley in February 1982, scoring his first goal in his third appearance in a 6-1 win over Wimbledon in the Third Division.

As a 20-year-old, he scored 19 goals in his first full season the following year and 30 in his final season, 1986/87, which included his only hat-trick for the Gills, in the play-off semi-final against Sunderland.

In the summer of 1987 he was sold to Millwall, who paid a club record fee of £225,000 to make him Teddy Sheringham's new strike partner.

His form with the Gills earned a call-up to Ireland in 1985. He qualified through his grandad, although he later revealed in his autobiography that he wasn't eligible as his mother was adopted, meaning he wasn't a blood relative of an Irishman. He played 88 times and scored 19 goals for Ireland, appearing at the 1990 and 1994 World Cups.

He was later sold to Aston Villa for £1.1 million and had an impressive spell in France with Marseille and Nancy. He now works as a pundit for talkSPORT radio.

■ So, do you agree?

Send in your opinions on our choice or who you think would have been a better option. Email greg.miles@archant.co.uk or write to **Sport, KOS Media, Apple Barn, Smeeth TN25 6SS**

Team sheet

- 1) Ron Hillyard
- 2) Steve Bruce
- 3) Chris Hope
- 4) Charlie Marks
- 5) Dennis Hunt
- 6) Andy Hesselthaler
- 7) Dick Tydeman
- 8) Terry Cochran
- 9) Nicky Southall
- 10) Brian Yeo
- 11) Tony Cascarino

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Official Government Test Environmental Data. Fuel consumption figures mpg (litres/100km) and CO 2 emissions (/km). Vauxhall range (excluding Ampera): Urban: 14.4 (19.6) - 76.3 (3.7), Extra-urban: 27.4 (10.3) - 91.1 (3.1), Combined: 20.6 (13.7) - 85.6 (3.3). CO 2 emissions: 324 - 88g/km.